



Daily Report

Latin America

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Cuba

Catholic Bishops Reiterate Need for Dialogue, Unity

PA0710200293 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1706 GMT
7 Oct 93

[Text] Havana, 7 Oct (EFE)—Three weeks after the bishops issued a message that elicited a violent reaction from Cuban media, the Catholic bishops of this country reiterated today the necessity for "dialogue and unity among all Cubans" in view of the current "serious" situation.

A statement by the Permanent Committee of the Episcopal Conference issued today deplores the fact that the bishops' message, "which appealed for reflection and conciliation at a time of crisis, has received such unusual treatment in our Latin American sphere."

In that document, which the weekly TRABAJADORES even described as a "gross pamphlet," the bishops also criticized "the exclusive and ubiquitous nature of government ideology, the curtailment of liberty, and excessive control of state security organizations," among other things.

In its statement today, the Episcopal Conference stressed the "strong dose of aggression" and "disproportionate reaction" caused by the document and flatly rejected charges leveled over the past few days against the Catholic Church. "We totally reject as slanderous," the statement reads, "the serious accusations made against us of betraying the fatherland, promoting a bloodbath, engaging in an alliance abroad, wanting a colonial restoration, and favoring an annexation with the United States."

The bishops maintain that many years ago the Episcopal Conference asked for a dialogue with the Cuban Government, "but we have always been told that the topic of such a dialogue would not be exclusively the ecclesiastic scope but would include the people's problems. There has been silence, delay, or rejection." The bishops explained that the 11 Cuban prelates are responsible for the message "without the Apostolic Nunciature or the Holy See taking any initiative in that respect."

The response by the Episcopate to a long line of indignant public articles has come on the same day that four members of the Permanent Committee of the Episcopal Conference are preparing to travel to Rome to be greeted by Pope John Paul II. Although this visit has been planned since May, ecclesiastic sources told EFE that it is taking on a particular importance in view of the repercussions that the message has elicited in the country.

Thousands of copies of this lengthy 17-page document, published by the Archbishopric of Havana and various

parishes, have been disseminated throughout the country after having been read at Sunday mass on 19 September.

Although the government has abstained from making an official pronouncement on its contents, the press defined the bishop's message as a "provocation" because of its "deceit, lack of honesty, and bad faith."

Official Hopeful U.S. Will Allow Puerto Rico Flight

FL0710161793 Havana Radio Reloj Network in Spanish 1402 GMT 7 Oct 93

[Text] Cuba is still awaiting a U.S. State Department decision regarding its authorization for the Cuban athletes delegation to Central America and the Caribbean in Ponce to fly directly from Havana to Puerto Rico.

Asked by GRANMA about the latest news on this matter, Vice President Jose Ramon Fernandez, who is responsible for sports, said that there is no news. He added that the organizing committee of the Ponce 93 Games—in an effort to reassure us—has reiterated that it is working to solve this problem, but the time has really come for a decision.

Fernandez said he is optimistic that the Puerto Rican sports authorities will succeed and that the U.S. Government will grant its authorization. He noted, however, that a reply is urgently needed now.

Conrado Cesar Martinez, president of the National Sports, Physical Education, and Recreation Institute, said a few weeks ago that Cuba's participation in these games was dependent upon the authorization of these direct flights.

Commentator Sees Puerto Rican Independence Unlikely

FL0710143193 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 1155 GMT 7 Oct 93

["Our Opinion" commentary by Eduardo Dimas]

[Text] On 5 October, the Foreign Affairs Committee of the U.S. House of Representatives began a hearing to analyze the political future of Puerto Rico, which since 1952 has held the status of a commonwealth state in free association with the United States, one of the many political euphemisms existing in this world.

Jose Serrano, a representative of Puerto Rican descent, has submitted a draft bill on the island, which was militarily occupied by the United States in 1898 during the Spanish-Cuban-American war. He said that Puerto Rico is simply a colony and requested the U.S. Congress to allow the Puerto Rican people to choose their destiny and to exercise their right to self-determination. Serrano, who is also chairman of the Congressional Hispanics Caucus, stated that the United States must recognize

that Puerto Rico is a colony and must respect its right to self-determination, traditionally recognized to all countries in the world.

I really do not know Mr. Serrano, but I believe he has a rather romantic view of U.S. politics because the United States is precisely one country which has never respected other peoples' right to self-determination. I believe this congressional hearing on Puerto Rico is quite timely. On 14 November, the ruling New Progressive Party, which seeks to make Puerto Rico the 51st state of the Union, will hold a plebiscite in which Puerto Ricans will be able to choose among three political options: keeping the current commonwealth status, becoming another state of the United States, or becoming independent.

At present, Puerto Rico has an autonomous government that has no control over either its foreign policy or its national defense; that is, it is far from being independent. The U.S. Congress, which in 1990 failed to agree on sponsoring a popular consultation, has not stated its position on the November plebiscite.

We should note here that many interests are at stake in the unfolding of the status of Puerto Rico. As a commonwealth state, Puerto Rico exempts from a number of taxes those companies establishing their factories on the island. A change of status would entail the loss of these privileges, the withdrawal of many companies, and the loss of more than 250,000 jobs. This would happen if the Puerto Rican people voted to become independent or to become another state of the Union. The island would also lose annual subsidies amounting to tens of millions of dollars.

Furthermore, an independence movement is unlikely to succeed because the people must have obviously developed certain interests through 96 years of colonialist rule and because repressive mechanisms have been used to crush every independence move; we mention only the case of Pedro Albizu Campos [founder of the radical Nationalist Party in the 1920's].

In light of the above reasons I believe that, if the plebiscite is held on 14 November, the two options to receive the most votes will be that of maintaining the commonwealth status or that of becoming another state of the Union. I do not believe the idea of independence has grown strong enough to be a real political option for the Puerto Rican people. Time will tell whether I am right.

Commentary Analyzes U.S. Policy in Somalia

FL0710194393 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 1700 GMT 7 Oct 93

[Commentary by Jose Armas]

[Text] President Clinton speaks of the withdrawal of U.S. troops from Somalia but U.S. soldiers and combat supplies continue arriving in Somalia. Clinton advocates a fixed deadline for the type of operation that is presently

going on in Somalia but argues that a U.S. withdrawal from Somalia must be honorable, that U.S. troops are in Somalia to support its political reconstruction, and that tasks requiring firmness have not yet been accomplished.

In reality, all this is very ambiguous. What does the United States mean by an honorable withdrawal from Somalia? What tasks requiring firmness are still to be accomplished? Clinton's arguments are very similar to the ones used in the past by the United States to justify its escalation of the dirty war waged against the Vietnamese people. Of course, we are sure that Clinton will not let this situation go that far. The irretrievable political power already lost seems to be enough for Clinton. However, many in the world, including the U.S. people, worry about continuing an operation that has degenerated into senseless massacre.

The doctrine of the so-called humanitarian intervention now being advocated has failed in Somalia. The Clinton Administration acted irresponsibly by embarking on such an adventure. Hunger has not been eliminated in Somalia. Hunger is not eliminated by distributing this or that many tons of food; this only mitigates it. In Somalia, a U.S.-designed political reconstruction will not succeed. This is a Somali affair. We firmly believe that peace in Somalia will not endure if it fails to heed the consensus of the Somali people and its leaders. Peace is not imposed, it is negotiated. The people of both the U.S. and Somalia are justified in feeling angry about events in that country.

Casualties, Butrus-Ghali Visit

FL0810015593 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 2300 GMT 7 Oct 93

[Text] The death of a U.S. soldier and the wounding of two others in Somalia further complicated the situation of the United Nations in that African state. The casualties were caused by a Somali attack against the Mogadishu airport.

With this event, the list of U.S. casualties reaches 26 troops since May, most of whom died in street confrontations where followers of the fugitive General Mohammed Farrah Aidid seem to have a tactical advantage. Presentation by rebels of a U.S. prisoner, and the disappearance of another six, the names of whom are unknown, add to the problem, all of which was enough for several U.S. senators to ask for the withdrawal of the United States from Somalia.

On the other hand, UN Secretary General Butrus-Ghali announced that he would travel to Mogadishu next week to convince the military heads of the importance of carrying out the international mission and to negotiate a political solution. At the moment, there are 25,000 troops in Somalia, who arrived there under the pretext of guaranteeing the distribution of food to the population and seeking stability. Such action, however, has become a war of repression against the people.

Sanchez Parodi: Cubans Mourn 'Tragic Moscow Outcome'

FL0810013793 Havana Tele Rebelde and Cuba Vision Networks in Spanish 0000 GMT 8 Oct 93

[Text] Today, PRENSA LATINA news agency published statements by acting Cuban Foreign Minister Ramon Sanchez-Parodi in which he expresses Cuba's wish for the prompt normalization of the situation in Russia and the establishment of a solid stability that will allow its people and government to work in peace. Sanchez-Parodi added that the government and the people of Cuba mourn the tragic outcome of the incidents in Moscow on 3 and 4 October and the armed conflicts that caused numerous deaths and material damages.

Sanchez-Parodi reiterated that Cuba wishes for the prompt normalization of the situation in that country.

Commentator Criticizes Parlatino Monitoring of Cuba

FL0710201593 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 1700 GMT 7 Oct 93

[Commentary by Nancy M. Gomez]

[Text] The Foreign Relations Committee of the National Assembly of the People's Government has issued a press communique outlining the principled Cuban position on statements made and steps taken by a special committee appointed by the Latin American Parliament [Parlatino]. It appears that Cuba's maintenance of an unvaried position throughout its nearly 35 years of revolution is not enough for those people who still wish to become self-appointed saviors of the Cuban nation.

The Parlatino executive board took the liberty of creating a special monitoring committee that would be in charge of keeping its executive organization abreast of the prevailing situation in the Republic of Cuba. Initially, this move would appear to be a noble, just concern about our land, which is going through the most difficult time in its history.

Yet, how can one make an ostensibly bona fide gesture such as this without first going through the Cuban parliament? How can one assess the situation prevailing in a country and make remarks to the press while ignoring Cuban officials and the people themselves? Some members of the Parlatino special committee have gone further. They have issued threats against our authorities should they refuse to accept their claims.

Has anyone ever seen Cuba yielding to any type of pressure? Could they believe that this critical situation might weaken us? We believe these gentlemen have missed their target, while exposing their true intentions. That is what became clear when they decided to listen to the proposals by those who came from Miami. By contrast, they have chosen to ignore our parliamentarians.

One deputy went even further. He said they are preparing an agenda of activities that will ultimately bring about a democratic system, as he conceives it, in Cuba. He added that this democracy will include the much-publicized multiparty system. He had better save his agenda for the moths because we are not interested in democracy as conceived by those gentlemen. We prefer the one we instituted on 1 January 1959, which has been instrumental in eradicating illiteracy, in putting shoes on our children's feet, in bridging the gap between both the rich and the poor and blacks and whites; and which, above all, has caused us to regain our dignity, our patriotic pride, and our independence.

Haiti

Government Communiques Address FRAPH Call for Strike

FL0710154593 Port-au-Prince Signal FM Radio in French 1030 GMT 7 Oct 93

[Text] [First announcer] On 5 October, the neo-Duvalierist Revolutionary Front for the Advancement and the Progress of Haiti, FRAPH, called for a 48-hour [as heard] general strike to demand an opening of the current government to include other political groups. FRAPH has threatened to use any means if between now and the weekend Prime Minister Robert Malval does not open his government to the Duvalierists. It has warned, in particular, the businessmen and drivers who dare to go about their normal work today. The organization, which defines itself as having nationalistic leanings, has furthermore invited its adherents to a demonstration scheduled for 8 October in order to demand once again the departure of Dante Caputo, representative of the UN and OAS secretaries general in Haiti, while asking for a reinforcement of the U.S. presence in the country.

In view of this call to strike, Prime Minister Malval indicated in a communique published on the night of 6 October that he had given instructions to the forces of order fully to perform their role of protecting citizens' lives and properties, especially today. Malval has also asked the people to keep cool so as to thwart intimidation attempts by small groups that are trying to hamper the process that should result in the return of President Jean-Bertrand Aristide on 30 October.

The ministers of interior and [national] defense have issued a joint communique urging the sectors of the national life to go about normal business. How are the streets of Port-au-Prince this morning?

[Second announcer] It must be said that on the Delmas road, for example, almost no public transportation vehicles are seen. There are long lines of people who have gathered (?along) the Delmas road, waiting, of course, for public transportation. But it seems that there is no public transportation; I have not seen even one public transportation vehicle when I arrived.

[First announcer] We have correspondents in other parts of the capital trying to follow the situation. They will call us during the day to report on the situation downtown and in Carrefour, for example.

Police Assure Control

FL0710154993 Port-au-Prince Radio Metropole in French 1045 GMT 7 Oct 93

[Text] The government is trying to reassure the populace regarding the threats from individuals who intend to take the nation hostage by any available means. I was quoting this communique from the cabinet of the prime minister. The government also warns those who choose violence to impose their viewpoints on the entire society and reaffirms its firm determination to refer all agitators and disturbers of public order to [the Ministry of] Justice. The government informs the population that the forces of order were instructed to exercise fully, at all times, their role of protecting life and property, especially on this 7 October.

The ministers of interior and defense inform the population and the business sector, especially industry, that formal orders have been given to the Haitian Armed Forces commander in chief to assure the security of lives and the protection of properties of all citizens throughout the entire territory of the Republic. As a consequence, the ministers of interior and defense urge all sectors of national life to carry out normal activities on 7 October.

There is also a press release from the military department of the Metropolitan area. Concerned about safeguarding peace within families and maintaining order and security in the streets, the department informs the general public that all police measures have already been taken to stave off all plans to disturb the social order during the day of 7 October. This department is counting on the understanding and the cooperation of everyone.

Strike Paralyzing Business, Traffic

FL0710190093 Port-au-Prince Radio Metropole in French 1500 GMT 7 Oct 93

[Text] The strike declared by The Revolutionary Front For Haiti's Development and Progress, FRAPH, has paralyzed activities today in Port-au-Prince: There is no public transport, private cars are very scarce on Port-au-Prince streets, and the business sector is closed down. Even the public administration has been affected by this movement. In some neighborhoods, acts of intimidation were reported and in the provinces, the strike has paralyzed activities on the southern and northern regional roads. No public transport is available in Croix-des-Bouquets, Croix des Missions, and Bon Repos.

Referring to the strike, the government had asked the populace to carry on its normal activities. Prime Minister Robert Malval considers that it more terrorism than strike:

[Begin Malval recording, in Creole] A strike followed under threat is not a strike; it is an act of terror. People think they can solve problems with Uzis. I am telling them that they are wasting their time. In 1993, Uzis cannot solve a country's problems. The Haitian people have a dream. Those people can try everything, but they could not kill the dream.

We have initiated legal action against the people who threaten the population and we promise those people that justice will triumph in this country. Because it is easy for people to declare a strike and threaten those who do not respect the strike. If the Haitian people had the right to express what is in their hearts, 2 million Haitians would be in the streets and the small number who think that they will take the country hostage...well, they would stay far away, watching such a party that would be held among all Haitians who want progress for Haiti. [end recording]

Armed Civilians Attacks

FL0710215393 Port-au-Prince Radio Metropole in French 1600 GMT 7 Oct 93

[Excerpts] Incidents were reported today in Petionville and some quarters of Port-au-Prince when armed civilians attacked pedestrians, forcing them to leave the Port-au-Prince streets. Public transport drivers were also attacked and forced to park their vehicles. Jean-Max Blanc has more details:

[Begin recording in Creole] Armed civilians used tear gas to scatter vendors in the Petionville market, the largest business center in the community. These civilians fired several shots and forced the vendors to pack up their goods and leave the market empty. These armed civilians committed these acts not far from the Petionville Police station. Many witnesses are too terrified to speak. Others have told us what they saw. [passage omitted]

Before noon, the Petionville streets were empty except for a few people rushing for the cover of home. Those already at home are afraid to open their windows to watch what is going on outside. Even small businesses are not open in the capital despite the fact that the government has asked the population to disregard small groups trying to keep people off the streets. In addition to the Petionville market, armed civilians also committed acts of intimidation in other areas in the capital.

In Musseau, which is the border area between Petionville and Port-au-Prince, armed civilians forced pedestrians to go home, and forced public drivers to park their cars. On the airport road, pedestrians on their way to work were forced at gunpoint to return home. [end recording]

Open Market Invaded, Two Wounded

FL0710210093 Port-au-Prince Radio Tropic FM in French 1930 GMT 7 Oct 93

[Text] On the occasion of the strike organized by FRAPH, Revolutionary Front for Haiti's Development

and Progress, two individuals were injured by gunfire during an intervention by armed civilians on the morning of 7 October at the open market of Carrefour Pean, a Port-au-Prince suburb. The wounded were rushed to the Haiti State University Hospital by the Red Cross. Armed civilians had invaded the Carrefour Pean market on the morning of 7 October to force them to go home [as heard].

In Thomassin 29, the driver of a sand truck traveling from Laboule was obliged to flee in order to escape shots fired at him by two armed civilians riding a motorcycle.

Malval, Caputo Condemn 5 Oct Attack on Former Senator

FL0710155493 Port-au-Prince Signal FM Radio in French 1030 GMT 7 Oct 93

[Text] On 6 September, We learned in Port-au-Prince that former Haitian Senator Wesner Emmanuel, currently in charge of liaison between the parliament and the executive, was attacked by armed individuals and briefly questioned by the police on the afternoon of 5 October. Emmanuel and one of his sons, as well as several other persons, were roughed up and threatened with death by armed strangers who also attacked the office of liaison between the parliament and the executive. The former senator explained that several shots were fired inside the premises.

In a communique published on 6 October, Haitian Prime Minister Robert Malval expressed his indignation at such actions and reaffirmed his determination to go through with his historic mission to return President Jean-Bertrand Aristide to Haiti on 30 October.

In a joint communique published on the evening [of 5 October], Dante Caputo, representative of the UN and OAS secretaries general, and the representatives of Canada, the United States, France, and Venezuela energetically condemned the violence that occurred on the morning of 5 October with the blatant complicity of members of the police forces. According to this text, groups of armed civilians entered the premises of the (?annex to the office) of the prime minister where they performed arbitrary arrests, threats, and shots against the various persons present. Those acts of intimidation and violence are contrary to the spirit of the Governors Island agreement, concludes the communique.

Beliotte: Cedras Participation in Court Opening 'Rebellion'

FL0710190693 Port-au-Prince Radio Tropic FM in French 1600 GMT 7 Oct 93

[Text] General Cedras committed an act of rebellion by participating in the opening of the judicial session conducted by Attorney Emile Jonassaint, the Court of Cassation president pensioned off by the Malval government. This is according to retired Gen. Jean Beliotte. In

a letter to Gen. Cedras, commander in chief of the Haitian Armed Forces [FADH], the minister of national defense says, quote:

As you know, by decision of the constitutional government within the scope of the Governors Island agreement, Attorney Jonassaint no longer holds the post of president of the Court of Cassation. By his initiative in presiding over the ceremony of the [judicial] session, he has taken the law into his own hands. It is this act of rebellion that you supported on Monday, 4 October, despite the notice of the Ministry of Justice on the absence of a ceremony on that day. Your support of and your participation in the performance of this ceremony are a dereliction of your duty as FADH commander in chief toward the established government, in violation of the spirit of the Constitution in force and the commitments you made at Governors Island.

The government, which sincerely supports the execution of the clauses of the Governors Island agreement, reminds you of the necessity to work toward the success of the process that should result in the normalization of institutions and the return of President Jean-Bertrand Aristide to the country on 30 October, unquote.

PNDPH Proposes Summit of Presidency, Parliament, Army

FL0710190793 Port-au-Prince Signal FM Radio in French 1030 GMT 7 Oct 93

[Text] The National Democratic Progressive Party of Haiti [PNDPH] has called for a summit conference designed to facilitate a way out of the crisis. The PNDPH assistant secretary believes this meeting should bring together the Presidency, the office of the parliament, and the Army General Staff.

[Begin unidentified PNDPH spokesman] PNDPH proposes a summit among the Haitian parliament, the General Staff of the Haitian Army, and the Presidency [of the Republic] to rule as a matter of urgency on the country's situation and to find a final solution to the crisis. The party acknowledges that President Jean-Bertrand Aristide and General Raoul Cedras symbolize the two protagonists in the crisis. The party also admits the involvement of the Haitian parliament in some political and administrative actions resulting from this coup d'etat. [end recording]

St. Lucia

Rioting Banana Farmers Attack Prime Minister's Car

FL0810005793 Bridgetown CANA in English 2007 GMT 7 Oct 93

[Text] Castries, St. Lucia, Oct 7, CANA—The St. Lucia Government, saying "certain criminal elements" had taken over a three-day-old protest by banana farmers, on

Thursday ordered police to take "all necessary measures" to restore law and order in a section of the island where there have been reports of violent unrest.

The statement issued by the prime minister's office singled out the Mabouya valley of Dennery in the eastern part of the island, as an area where these "criminal elements" have been "particularly active." As the crack-down was underway, unidentified callers to state-owned Radio St. Lucia reported [passage indistinct] said he had no information, "at this point in time," about any deaths.

The protest by the banana farmers, in the form of a strike, is aimed at pressing the St. Lucia Banana Growers Association to pay a minimum price of EC30 cents for every pound of bananas it buys for export to the United Kingdom. The association, however, said it was unable to meet the demand because its earnings from exports

have been tumbling, due to the falling value of the pound sterling and an oversupply of bananas on the U.K. market.

On Wednesday, the protest turned ugly when a car driven by Prime Minister John Compton was smashed by protestors in the Dennery area. Compton, who was unhurt, had to be rescued by police.

The statement issued by the P.M.'S office referred to continuing roadblocks in the area that were preventing traffic from moving between the capital, Castries, and the southern town of Vieux Fort where the Hewanorra International Airport is situated. The statement said the "criminal elements" were molesting travellers by asking for money to secure passage. Some travellers had been robbed, the statement added. Ambulances with sick people had been "molested" and the Vieux Fort electricity plant was running low on fuel because the highway had been blocked. "All this points to a breakdown of law and order which can no longer be permitted," the statement said.

*** Labor Side Agreement Seen Flawed**

93ES1046A Toronto THE GLOBE AND MAIL in
English 23 Sep 93 p B2

[Commentary by Peter Cook: "Organized Labor's Anti-Trade Obsession"]

[Text] The three NAFTA [North American Free Trade Agreement] governments have begun distributing a document entitled, North American Agreement on Labor Co-operation, final draft. It runs to more than 30 pages and has seven annexes that detail what Canada and the United States and the country under fire, Mexico, will do for workers. All kinds of rights must be protected; equal pay must be given to men and women; minimum employment standards must be enforced; minimum wages set; and, to enforce it all, NAFTA will have a Commission for Labour Co-operation.

Separately negotiated, this is the labour side agreement insisted on by President Bill Clinton. But while it serves one purpose—that of binding Mexico to observe U.S. and Canadian standards of worker protection and welfare—it is also a document that has failed the real test for which it was intended.

Mr. Clinton, a Democrat, conceived of it as a way to win Democrats to a trade deal that will expand markets for U.S. goods and services and create better jobs. In this, he has failed. And when one looks at the lengthy roster of anti-free-trade congressmen in the House of Representatives, it is not hard to see why.

Were Mexico to grant as much power to labour's representatives as Sweden does, support in Congress would still founder on the fact that so many lawmakers are well-paid friends of organized labour. And, as in Canada, labour is unalterably xenophobic.

In both countries, the anti-NAFTA, anti-FTA [expansion unknown] forces like to think of themselves as agents of the popular will.

In Canada, the polls show support for labour and for the anti-free-trade NDP [expansion unknown] is woefully small. The union-financed pressure groups who oppose free trade now invite their supporters to vote for the "progressive" members of a party, the Liberals, that does not—which seems a strategy of desperation. Certainly, it is hard to see it as populism. Many times the spark has been lit and the old free-trade debate of 1988 exhumed. But, so far, no prairie fire.

In the United States, populism is getting to be equated with Ross Perot, which is not a nice thing to happen to

an "ism." On Capitol Hill, however, populism wears another face and, in the American way, gets paid for what gets done. According to the Center for Responsive Politics in Washington, House Democrats rely on political action committees funded by organized labour for \$85,000 (U.S.) out of an average \$500,000 that each of them raised at the last election. The labour unions preach a gospel of fear about free trade and say they will destroy any congressman who votes for NAFTA. The average Democratic legislator takes note and fears that union slush funds will be withdrawn and that he or she will lose next year's congressional race because of it. The situation is ironic because peddling money and influence to corrupt legislators is something labour likes to accuse big business of doing.

In the case of NAFTA, labour got started early and claims to have won 40 wavering congressmen to the "no" side even as Mr. Clinton was negotiating that labour side agreement. Business lobbying in support of the administration is only now getting going. Even with pro-NAFTA Republicans on side, Mr. Clinton is reckoned to be about 40 or 50 votes short of getting a majority in the lower house. One oddity of the process is who stands opposed; labour has made common cause with Patrick Buchanan and Ross Perot. Still more odd, the labour unions are fraternally allied with their enemies, southern textile interests and right-to-work states, who are also anti-Mexico. Scruples have been set aside. On NAFTA, ends justify means.

To defeat the NAFTA legislation may keep some Americans, and even a tiny band of Canadians, in their jobs—but it will cost all workers the growth that creates new jobs and better jobs. It will also represent a tragic retreat from free trade and from extending its benefits to less productive workers in Latin America so as to raise their living standards and ensure reforms take place. Mexico, the low-wage partner that plays by NAFTA rules, will not be with us. Mexico, the low-wage rival that plays by its own rules, will be.

Another conclusion to be drawn from what is happening, and the way it is being done, is that the anti-NAFTA crusade represents a political opportunity for U.S. labour—which has waning influence in Washington—to reassert itself. This can only be done under the Democrats. And the fact that NAFTA and Mexico are its targets is incidental.

The tragedy is that, in its former glory days, the labour movement in the United States was generous toward others and international-minded and supportive of free trade, as was the Democratic Party. Now, talk about insecure jobs comes naturally to insecure labourites.

El Salvador**Health Minister Unhurt After Gunmen Open Fire on Car**

PA0810010293 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 2340
GMT 7 Oct 93

[Text] San Salvador, 7 Oct (ACAN-EFE)—Salvadoran Health Minister Lisandro Vasquez Sosa was unhurt today, Thursday, in an attack carried out by unidentified individuals, who, according to official sources, fired a burst of machine-gun fire at the top official's vehicle.

The Health Ministry stated in a communique that Vasquez Sosa was attacked in downtown San Salvador at noon today while riding in his car in the company of another person, who was not identified.

Although the incident took place amid a labor crisis between the Health Ministry and its employees, who have been calling work stoppages since 30 August to demand higher salaries, Vasquez did not blame them for the incident, according to the communique.

"When reporting on the attack, the minister did not blame anyone in particular, but he expressed his most forceful condemnation of the incident, which does not contribute to the peace process in El Salvador," it added.

It also reported that police authorities have initiated a "thorough" investigation to locate those responsible for the incident and "to punish those found guilty of these acts of terrorism."

Presidential Weekly News Conference 4 Oct

PA0710160793 San Salvador Radio El Salvador
Network in Spanish 1735 GMT 4 Oct 93

[Regular weekly news conference by President Alfredo Cristiani with domestic reporters and unidentified moderator at the Presidential House in San Salvador—live]

[Text] [Cristiani] I want to briefly explain about the weapons found over the weekend. First, as we have previously said, this matter will be treated by the government as a common crime. We have instructed both the PNC [National Civilian Police] and UEA [Drug Interdiction Executive Unit] to continue investigating to find, if they exist, the people responsible for hiding these weapons and apply the law as appropriate. Second, we have already contacted Onusal [UN Observers for El Salvador] whom we have asked to inspect the weapons and also help investigate who is responsible. In addition, we will be sending a note to Onusal asking that the topic of the FMLN [Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front] arms turnover not be declared a closed case, as some people want.

It is obvious by the type and characteristics of the weapons found that this is the sort of armament that could not have been just forgotten by someone. Arms like a .50 cal machinegun and several rocket launchers

are not the type of weapons of which one just loses track. The FMLN feels that the topic of collection and destruction of weapons has ended, but now we once more confirm what we have always thought—the FMLN has not done all it can to ensure the complete return of the weapons and that these be destroyed.

One the one hand we are going to investigate who is responsible and then apply the law; we are also going to ask Onusal to keep open the topic of surrender and destruction of FMLN armaments and that Onusal continue to track down, uncover, and destroy arms that may still be here or abroad, but mainly in El Salvador.

[Moderator] Jorge Barahona, Teleprensa.

[Barahona] Good morning, Mr. President. On this same topic, what will be the legal consequences once the government concludes its investigation?

[Cristiani] We will apply the law to those found responsible. They first must obviously be arrested. Then they will be turned over to the appropriate judge who will determine what punishment they will receive.

[Barahona] The FMLN?

[Cristiani] Whoever it turns out to be.

[Moderator] Norma Jimenez, TCS news.

[Jimenez] Good morning. You say investigations are under way to determine who is responsible. But when the arsenal was uncovered it was immediately said that it belonged to the FMLN. I would like to know what was this assertion based on.

[Cristiani] The characteristics of the armaments and the area where they were found—areas where the FMLN obviously operated. We have information that in some of these areas there are still groups who remain armed.

[Jimenez] Was there any notification at the government level, such as to the UN secretary general, to discuss this?

[Cristiani] Not directly with the secretary general but through his personal Onusal representative in El Salvador.

[Moderator] Mario Jovel of "Up-to-Date."

[Jovel] The human rights ombudsman released his report over the weekend. We would like to know the government's position on this. Will the government heed the ombudsman's recommendation to legislate for the people's protection?

[Cristiani] I have only read half of the report. Nevertheless, I ordered the document studied. First, the ombudsman should not be concerned about the crime rate. Second, the report mentions a special investigations commission, but an interinstitutional commission to prevent and fight crime already exists, comprised of representatives from the Attorney General's Office, the Supreme Court of Justice, and the various institutions

responsible for preventing and fighting crime. We believe the idea should not be to create more and more commissions but to fight crime. Efforts are being made in several areas. The Education Ministry is working on an important area. Although its field is not repression but prevention, the ministry is conducting studies on how to deal with youth gangs. I repeat that crime does not seem to fall within the ombudsman's jurisdiction. I do not mean that human rights are not violated when a man robs and kills another. Yet the ombudsman's work does seem to include an area different from that of other institutions. I think the task at hand is a large one, but it is being done with available resources. I can assure you no one will come up with a magic wand to correct the situation.

[Moderator] Wilfredo Cordoba of YSKL.

[Cordoba] Good morning, Mr. President. My question deals with the appearance of anti-youth gang groups, made up of former members of the FMLN and the Armed Forces. What will be done to control this situation?

[Cristiani] Everyone who is violent is subject to the law. We cannot allow civilians to take justice into their own hands. Ironically, those who reportedly are fighting the youth gangs are the same ones who have been said to be active in crime. Anyway, this cannot be permitted in a civilized country. The law will be enforced against whoever violates the law, regardless of the side which he is on.

[Moderator] Raul Monge of Radio Cadena Central.

[Monge] A little off this morning's topic, I would like to know your opinion on the reaction of the Communists in Moscow, who want to reestablish the system that existed in the old Soviet Union.

[Cristiani] The opening up process in Russia must be defended and maintained. We believe the Russian people's freedom is more secure with the new reforms implemented by President Yeltsin. It is wrong for the Communists to maintain through force an opprobrious and unsuccessful system. We regret the violent incidents nevertheless. The tricks in Yeltsin's remarks remind one of what happened in El Salvador in October and November 1989, when negotiations were reportedly in progress while violent measures were being implemented at the same time. These things are over here. We expect such things to come to an end in Russia also.

[Moderator] Tony Mineros, Megavision.

[Mineros] Mr. President, last Saturday we talked to representatives of the Inter-Union Association who had met at a labor union headquarters. They deemed void for all intents and purposes the accord signed with your administration and accused the government of breaking said accord. They referred to such cases as INPEP [National Institute of Government Employee Pensions], where many people have been fired, and the inability of

Health Ministry officials and your minister to continue talks. They said they will present a new document today to your administration seeking to avoid more labor strikes. Will your administration be willing to meet them again?

[Cristiani] I would like to make some clarifications about a publication by the Inter-Union Association or the State Unions bloc, whatever it's called.

First, it calls to my attention the fact that the initial problem occurred in the Public Health Ministry. After this, all these groups—which we all know whose orders they follow—decided to support the health workers' strike and create more problems. It is clear to me that the problem in the Public Health Ministry was resolved. All formal entities representing different sectors of employees or health workers signed an accord and resumed their duties, while a small group of approximately seven people—who are more radical—insisted on creating problems. They received the support of the Inter-Union Association groups.

The problem in the Public Health Ministry has been resolved in general terms. In this regard, we do not see why they say this problem is still unresolved. None of them, except the representatives of AGEMA [expansion unknown], signed the document so they have reason to disavow it.

Secondly, the case of INPEP also called to my attention. INPEP officials were not present the weekend when the accord with Public Health Ministry representatives was signed. Health Ministry officials spoke on behalf of INPEP and the government said the accord would encompass INPEP and other organizations that wished to be included. However, a period of time was granted prior to the signing of the accord. There was a talk with INPEP representatives last Tuesday, when we were informed they agreed to sign this document. These sectors said that by Monday the firings still continued. Until then INPEP had not signed the accord. We had agreed we would wait until Thursday to allow more time for those who wished to sign the document. On Thursday, since Health Ministry representatives stressed the fact that they represented INPEP, we called INPEP representatives to ask them if they were to adhere themselves to the accord. Now, INPEP Union representatives have refused to sign the document.

We have settled our difficulties with Public Health Ministry officials and have nothing to do with seven people who refused to return to work. We have in no way violated the accords and will continue to fulfill them. It is now quite clear that there are some sectors only interested in seeking instability. If they said they would support Health Ministry officials, after the strike was settled they should have returned to work. There is no reason to continue problems; they should have adhered to the document settling problems in the health sector. But now I don't know why they have come up with the idea of negotiating new things. We can listen to them and

receive documents stating their position. We have always been ready to receive their proposals and analyze them. But I think this is part of what I have said all along: These are not labor strategies. These are political strategies to create instability. I do not see how they can say problems with Public Health Ministry have not been resolved.

On Friday, all Health Ministry sectors issued a declaration reiterating the agreement reached on Saturday on behalf of Public Health Ministry representatives. They claimed they represented all Public Health Ministry officials. There is no other formal group within the Ministry opposed to the accord, except these seven individuals who want to create more problems. They are being supported by other people.

They have gone as far as to weld shut the gates of Rosales Hospital's out patient section. I mean, there is not much to discuss with those who would go to such extremes, even after having achieved an opening and having reached an agreement with the Ministry of Public Health,

[Moderator] Ismael Beltran from EL DIARIO DE HOY.

[Beltran] [Words indistinct] some sectors believe you should order the Army to protect harvesters, particularly the coffee harvesters, to prevent theft, destruction, and [word indistinct]. Would you be willing to deploy the Army? The other question has to do with the budget for El Salvador University. Now that there is a draft bill to double the amount, there is concern about whether there is a way to oversee the use of these funds.

[Cristiani] First, I will say, yes, we are studying possible events that could occur during the coffee harvest. It is our intention to provide the greatest degree of security to the coffee picking process, as well as for other harvests, to allow them to be completed as normally as possible. We will evaluate the steps we will have to take to do this, and we will use all the resources we have at our disposal to prevent theft, hijacking, and so on during the coffee harvest season.

Regarding your second question, there is an increase in the budget. It is not double, but just under. This is for salary increases and certain improvements planned at the National University—specifically, the rebuilding of several buildings damaged by the earthquake. El Salvador University had, of course, requested much more than that, but there are not enough available funds. Although it is not the Executive Branch but the Accounts Court [Corte de Cuentas] that must oversee this, we do believe that an audit must be conducted and that they must prove where the money is used, just like any other agency using government funds. Also, not only must these funds be reviewed, but also the foreign donations the university receives directly. Although this is an autonomous entity, it is still a government agency and the donations are part of its income. I believe the Accounts Court should review the use of these funds.

[Moderator] Javier Najarro from Cadena de Oro.

[Najarro] I would like to return to the report presented by the Human Rights Ombudsman. The ombudsman said that there have been only isolated campaigns, which have failed, and that there is no national crime policy. I would like to know if you agree with the ombudsman's opinion?

[Cristiani] I cannot say I share his opinion. Nevertheless, I must accept the fact that there is a problem and that it is a serious problem. There are certain circumstances affecting the country, and we must work accordingly. We are trying to create some degree of interagency coordination to prevent and fight common crime. We are working in accordance with the country's laws, which are broad enough to allow us to fight crime. Some reforms could be made, but we do not really need a special law as was suggested. I think a good effort is being made. The problem is there, and we must continue to make efforts. We will gain expertise as we increase the PNC operating funds, which will also allow the National Police to make better use of their funds.

The same could also be done in other areas, such as with the legal reforms being studied by the Justice Ministry, the Education Ministry, and others. It is an integral plan that must be worked on. Serious problems remain. We have to continue resolving these problems, and we are going to continue working, but we do not believe new commissions are the answer.

To speak of a special investigation commission is not the answer because the country already has an investigation commission, which will soon be part of the PNC. It operates under the auspices of the Attorney General's Office, as it should. It also counts. It is like the demand for 10,000 policemen now. It is very easy to say 10,000 policemen now, but when we decided to appoint them, they were opposed because people claimed they were former members of the National Guard and the Treasury Police. It is easier to talk than to act.

[Moderator] Carlos Rugamas from ACAN-EFE.

[Rugamas] Mr. President, this weekend we heard the news that the first member of the PNC had been killed on duty. Could this prompt the PNC to use heavier caliber weapons? Are you going to increase the number of PNC members in the capital?

[Cristiani] We do not believe this merits reforms or the use of different kinds of weapons. I believe all policemen have the basic weapons with which they can do their work. There are special units with special missions in which they are allowed to use different weapons. In these cases, they do not use normal weapons, but special weapons. They need special authorization to use them. We must understand that in any country of the world police officers are involved in a risky profession. We must understand that. It is one of the things that is not often recognized. They are risking their lives. They are

very often criticized, but they are in fact doing a great deal at the risk of their own lives.

I repeat, this is normal. Policemen die everywhere in this type of profession. Criminals are armed, they are people who are willing to kill, and, in this regard, we believe training will continue to be important for us to have professional police officers who are capable of doing their job.

[Moderator] Kevin Murray from REUTER.

[Murray] Good morning. I understand a new line of credit for coffee growers will be offered. Could you give us more information about this? How much credit will be offered?

[Cristiani] For the time being, we are analyzing possibilities that depend on how coffee retention measures will evolve as agreed upon by the coffee producing countries. There is a possibility of special financing for coffee growers during the retention period.

As for new lines of credit, the only one offered is that of approximately 100 colons per quintal of coffee, which will be given for a longer period of time in order that coffee growers will not stop fighting diseases or fertilizing coffee plantations. The objective is to facilitate work in the coffee plantations. There are lines of credit to refinance outstanding balances, which have been opened for quite some time. What we are studying now is what type of financial support can be given to those who withhold their coffee, which is part of the agreement reached with the Association of Coffee Producing Countries, but this has not yet been determined.

[Moderator] Jose Espinosa of Radio America.

[Espinosa] Mr. President, the Catholic Church again expressed concern over the activities of the so-called death squads. I would like to know whether your government is investigating and if any measures have been taken. My second question deals with a report saying that beans full of weevils and fungi have been imported from the PRC into Honduras and El Salvador.

[Cristiani] I understand it was the archbishop of San Salvador who commented on the death squads. We are conducting an investigation with Onusal on all cases that could be of a political nature, according to Onusal or those who filed the complaints. So far, we have not found any specific groups engaged in violence for political purposes. While criminal gangs are responsible for assassinations, other deaths have proved circumstantial. So far, however, the inquiries have led to the reasonable conclusion that deaths have resulted from common crime rather than political motives. There has been coordinated and permanent work with Onusal to deal with all those points.

Your second question is about beans imported from the PRC into Honduras and El Salvador. There is the possibility that we can recover from Honduras a small amount of beans they borrowed from us. We have sent

an Agriculture Ministry delegation to that country to check whether the beans imported from the PRC are indeed plagued with weevils. If so, the beans will be sprayed. Maybe you laugh, but if you ask the technicians, all of the corn you eat has been sprayed against weevils, not against people. It is possible to fumigate the basic grains without harming humans. Maybe Bayer of Germany could give you some more details. We think it is necessary to import beans to bring prices down to a realistic level. The Economy Ministry and investigative agencies are trying to determine whether there is a monopoly. We have observed that even though there is no bean shortage, prices remain up. That could mean there is some manipulation. We have imported some beans from Mexico that will be put on the market this week. We have imported beans from the PRC. If these beans are not edible because they are infested, rest assured we will not release them for human consumption. Otherwise, we will do everything possible to get rid of the weevils without any detrimental effects on humans. Anyway, if you want to eat the untreated beans, it is your problem.

[Moderator] Edgardo Moreno of Radio Res.

[Moreno] I have two questions. The first deals with charges filed by the FMLN and the Christian Democratic Party on the misuse of government funds to directly finance the Arena [Nationalist Republican Alliance] electoral campaign. My second question deals with a report by a group of Salvadorans living in San Francisco that homosexuals and lesbians are being organized by (?SISTE) to attend a feminist congress in El Salvador. Any comments on these two situations?

[Cristiani] Well, as for the first topic, we have not started any campaign in support of.... [pauses] We have a budget that was approved by the Legislative Assembly. The Court of Accounts oversees all resources that are earmarked by the state. The normal, institutional campaigns, if you wish, have been made. I would wager that if we look back we can see what were truly campaigns, which is not the case now. I am amazed to see that the Christian Democratic Party has something to say when it is the one that set up a propaganda ministry. The one shouting today is the one who handled that ministry. Some things are obvious. I do not think we have been supporting anyone. We are only talking about the government's accomplishments and what the government is doing. That is about it. The other topic is a very kinky one, and I do not want to talk about that. [laughter] They can decide that among themselves. [laughter]

[Moderator] Thank you very much, Mr. President.

Guatemala

Congress Reviews Reform Bills; Limits U.S. Apple Imports

PA0810012093 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 2242
GMT 7 Oct 93

[Text] Guatemala City, 7 Oct (ACAN-EFE)—The Legislative Congress of Guatemala today declared itself in

permanent session to review bills to reform the Constitution and the possible advancement of general elections to end the institutional crisis in the Central American country. The decision was made after a three-hour meeting in which a bill banning the importation of apples from the United States, Chile, and France was approved.

While Congress President Christian Democrat Jose Lobo refused to meet with international media representatives, his rival, Arturo Soto, leader of the self-denominated Great Parliamentary Group (GGP), told reporters that there is a consensus to review the reforms to the Constitution that have been in effect since 1985. Soto said Congress admitted today that there is a political crisis. Nevertheless, he emphasized that the consensus was to only review the reforms, which include advancing the legislative, judicial, and possibly presidential elections scheduled for 1996.

Two-thirds of the deputies present—97 of them attended the session—agreed to declare themselves in permanent session, but with interruptions, until 21 October. During this period, Congress will only discuss the reforms to the Constitution in the Legislative and Constitutional Points Commissions, according to Christian Democrat Deputy Enrique Guillen Funes to ACAN-EFE.

This is the first time since 5 September that the GGP, formed by 70 of the 116 congressmen, has attend a congress session called by Lobo Dubon. At the meeting, the congressmen also heard the budget bill, which is to be sent to the Finance Commission for its discussion and approval.

Soto pointed out that after reviewing the reform bills, they will try to convince Guatemalan President Ramiro de Leon Carpio to change the plebiscite's question to ask whether people support this mechanism and not to seek the deputies' resignation. The GGP leader, who is a member of the Guatemalan Republican Front (FRG), insisted that the plebiscite called by the Electoral Tribunal for 28 November, will not resolve the institutional crisis.

"We agree that the referendum be held on 28 November, but that it be to reform the Constitution," Soto emphasized to ACAN-EFE. FRG member Francisco Reyes reiterated that his party supports the reforms and even moving up the general elections for president, deputies, and court magistrates.

The declaration of "permanent session" did not allow 12 National Vanguard Party (PAN) deputies to ratify their resignation before the plenary. PAN Deputy Rafael Eduardo Barrios said the declaration of a permanent session in Congress was a "political maneuver" not to hear their resignations. Another PAN member, Carlos Valle, pointed out that his party agrees with the criteria of reforming the Constitution.

During the session, the deputies approved with "national urgency" the initiative of two Christian Democratic congressmen, banning [prohibir] the importation of apples from the United States, France, and Chile. According to Alfonso Gaytan of the Union of the National Center, it is necessary to protect Guatemalan producers and stop unfair trade. According to the legislative decree, the importation of apples will only be allowed from February to June every year. This year, 1993, however, the importation of apples will be allowed up to October.

De Leon on URNG Possible Rejection of Peace Plan

PA0710233393 Guatemala City Teleonce Television in Spanish 0400 GMT 7 Oct 93

[Report from the "Telepress" newscast]

[Text] In a news conference held on Thursday [7 October—as heard], President Ramiro de Leon Carpio commented on the Guatemalan National Revolutionary Unity's [URNG] possible rejection of the government's peace plan.

[Begin De Leon recording] The government has shown a clear political commitment to attain peace. We now hope they will give us a similar response. Nevertheless, while on this critical path that I mentioned before, we have asked ourselves what would happen if they gave us a flat no, which I do not believe they will. But what would happen if they do this?

There are reports that fighters want to join the peace process, and I say they are welcome. I believe that in this regard we have to make a call for them to join the peace process. If the leadership—because of tactics, strategy, convenience, or any other reason—does not accept the peace process, we have to do something. We want to attain peace. It could be useful to make a call to the fighters at the proper time.

First, this means we will have to facilitate procedures to attain a cease-fire. After a cease-fire is attained, we will have to work to rebuild Guatemala and to build peace with all the economic, social, and cultural elements. I reiterate, we still have to wait for some reactions, but the possibility exists of making a call to the fighters in case the URNG rejects the peace plan.

Sometimes we ask ourselves why would they possibly reject the plan? Is it because the URNG does not have political opportunities to legalize their organization and participate in civilian life at this time? Do they have the people's support or not? These are questions we are asking ourselves and, I believe, they are asking themselves. [end recording]

Army, Guerrillas Clash At Rally

PA0710233293 Guatemala City Teleonce Television in Spanish 0400 GMT 7 Oct 93

[Report from the "Telepress" newscast]

[Text] The initial casualty toll following a clash that took place in La Reforma Municipality is that at least six people are dead and an undetermined number are wounded. The bodies of four guerrillas and two soldiers were taken to San Marcos, while the wounded soldiers were taken to the Coatepeque Regional Hospital. Some other surviving soldiers were taken to the Military Medical Center in Guatemala City.

The clashes took place on the grounds of La Igualdad and El Baluarte estates. The Army seized AK-47 rifles, fragmentation grenades, claymore mines, and knapsacks used by the guerrillas. The report added [3-second break in reception] Roberto Espinosa Perez.

It was learned in Guatemala City that a strong military contingent has been sent to the area of the clash to protect the civilian population and to continue searching for other guerrillas. The confrontation occurred while a military patrol was conducting operations in an area where the guerrillas happened to be holding a rally. It was learned the guerrillas were protesting the peace plan announced this week by President Ramiro de Leon Carpio and demanding the dissolution of the Civilian Self-Defense Patrols.

De Leon Interviewed on Referendum

PA0810032593 Guatemala City CRONICA in Spanish 4 Oct 93 pp 20-21

[Interview with President Ramiro de Leon Carpio by Iduvina Hernandez and Evelyn Blanck in Guatemala City; date not given]

[Text] [CRONICA] Until a few days ago, the idea prevailed that you supported the Great Parliamentarian Group. Why did you call for the referendum?

[De Leon] After studying what has been happening from legal and political viewpoints, I concluded it was necessary to call for the referendum. When I formally asked the deputies to resign, I also announced that I would ask the new Congress to initiate a process of amending the Constitution, because I thought they would leave the Congress within a reasonable time. That was 45 days ago, but no resignations have been submitted. Today I am convinced of the need to call for the referendum as a strategy. If I do not, and the constitutional reforms are pushed, who can tell whether it will take the deputies at least two years to complete the process? In addition, the political parties will not accept the referendum as is, particularly general elections two years away. After my action on Monday, the deputies have two choices: Submit themselves to the referendum or initiate by themselves the miracle of transformation between now and 50 days, thereby dispelling the need for the measure.

[CRONICA] Did it not take you too long to request the referendum?

[De Leon] It has taken me hours and hours to decide on the precise wording of the two questions of the referendum. I even went home one day to get the record of sessions I kept while I was a Constituent Assembly member. I had two basic purposes: 1) to make sure what I was doing was right, and 2) to clear any doubt as to the compulsory nature of the referendum.

[CRONICA] This second point has been debated considerably. Why do you think the referendum is binding?

[De Leon] The Guatemalan Constitution stipulation is based on a Spanish one, which is clearly binding. What would happen if the president lights on the idea to reclaim Chiapas, he calls a referendum, the people say no, and yet the president decides to go ahead anyway? I think this example clearly illustrates the referendum's binding nature.

[CRONICA] Why did you not request the resignation of titular and alternate deputies at the same time?

[De Leon] That was my original intention, because this is what the people want. Nevertheless, I had to go against my desire, because, if I had not, not only would I put the Supreme Electoral Tribunal [TSE] in a tight spot, but I also would leave the door open for a challenge. To demand the resignation of all would have caused a state organ to become leaderless.

I also considered the possibility of explaining to the people my reasons for acting like this, and letting the TSE seek, through analogy with other legislatures, election mechanisms to fill the power vacuum. From a juridical standpoint, the power vacuum problem could have been resolved, but a political problem would have been created because of the need to abandon the constitutional framework. This would have brought a loss of support for the government, both here and abroad.

[CRONICA] Why do the referendum questions not demand the resignations of deputies and magistrates?

[De Leon] At the beginning, I thought the questions might be: Do you ask or demand that the titular deputies resign irrevocably? Had I worded the questions like this, I would have been accused of interfering with the other state branches. This is why I concluded that I needed to express a political willingness. I drew from the constituent legislator's intention on drafting the popular referendum and found that this decision could only come from the president of the Republic or the Congress, but not the people. This is why the question asks for the people's support for a political decision by the president.

[CRONICA] Does this mean you think a challenge for interfering with other branches would not proceed?

[De Leon] The president's request can be challenged, but it is also very difficult for such a challenge to be declared

proper because it obeys the Constitution. By framing the questions this way, I remain within the guidelines of Article 173.

[CRONICA] Why did you not include yourself, as chief executive, in the referendum?

[De Leon] Because I concluded that it is not my resignation the people are requesting. Furthermore, to ask if they want me to resign would be rather irresponsible, because it would raise the possibility of leaving the state completely leaderless. We must realize that the referendum implies a vote of confidence in the president because the people are asking the deputies to resign by saying yes to the president.

[CRONICA] Some congressmen have threatened to request that you be included in the referendum. What will you do if that happens?

[De Leon] I am willing to face a democratic contest.

[CRONICA] Congress has not reacted favorably to your request. Do you expect strong attacks from the political sector?

[De Leon] Congress can make my popularity drop, but the task of increasing its prestige is virtually impossible. If the political parties decide to defend the congressmen, they will be exposing themselves to a tremendous amount of attrition and would place themselves on the verge of possible extinction. That would be terrible for democracy, to which the political parties are essential.

[CRONICA] Is an intensification of the confrontation with the political parties possible?

[De Leon] The logical thing would be for them to make their decision now to avoid further attrition, but I admit they also have another way out: They can obtain a congressional majority and confront the executive. This could cause a very strong institutional crisis, but it is to my advantage that the referendum has already been convened.

[CRONICA] What will you do if the congressmen refuse to adhere to the results of the referendum?

[De Leon] Summon the people. I would try not to employ this option because legal means are still available to me to counteract a possible offensive by the congressmen. For example, the Office of the Attorney General is planning pretrials and lawsuits against congressmen and former ranking officials. Legal action would even be taken against people who have participated in illegal activities in the past and present. Proof and information would be obtained. It would be a harsh and disadvantageous confrontation for the country.

[CRONICA] Do you have the necessary support to deal with such a struggle? It is said there are divisions among certain sectors.

[De Leon] I understand there are fears, mainly within the economic sector, and that a possible confrontation and worsening of the political crisis will have economic consequences, but in spite of this, I have the people's support.

[CRONICA] Has the request for the referendum done away with the constitutional reforms bill that certain political parties were discussing?

[De Leon] That is paradoxical, because when a solution of the crisis was apparently closer than ever with the constitutional reforms issue, the president reaffirmed his position. We discovered that it would take too much time to reach political agreements and that it was even unlikely that without a coercive branch the reforms would not succeed. I have been informed that the goal of some politicians was not a final restructuring but the prolongation of an empty discussion that would only allow the deputies to remain in Congress for their two remaining years.

[CRONICA] Does this mean that certain deputies did not intend to fulfill the constitutional reforms?

[De Leon] Apparently there has been a political agreement on the significant issues, but that does not imply that it would occur to any deputy to request or include any point susceptible to modification that would generate a discussion in the press which, after all, would only retard the reform process. This and other false arguments could have taken place at Congress. Meanwhile, how do you force 79 deputies to vote time after time to approve the reforms?

[CRONICA] The Christian Democratic Party also supported the idea of a referendum. Are you not under the impression that this party was already prepared for this?

[De Leon] They skillfully used the idea of a referendum, but it was merely a show [previous word in English]. There are people who believe I am playing up to them, which is not so, because in the end the only option they will have is to resign.

[CRONICA] If the deputies undertake their own reform and purging process, what paths will be available to them?

[De Leon] As I have already said, the deputies have three options. First, they can go through with the reforms, then hold elections, and then resign with their alternates. Their second option is to execute the reforms, then resign. Third, the congressmen can resign and have their alternates take over and implement the reforms.

Some of them fear this last option because (?they question the qualifications) of the alternate congressmen. Nevertheless, I believe it cannot be that bad because the people would be watching the alternates, and they would have to behave differently and make the necessary reforms with the understanding that if they do not implement them, the referendum would loom as a form of pressure.

When we outlined the referendum, those of us who favor a constituent assembly did not imagine how useful this mechanism would be. If the congress, however, fails to exercise any of these options and the referendum is held, the Guatemalan people will put into practice a lovely exercise that will take us back to the origins of democracy without losing sight of the fact that the people want changes, as well as need structural reforms and the elimination of impunity and corruption.

Foreign Minister Addresses UNGA 5 Oct

PA0710212993 Guatemala City SIGLO VEINTIUNO
in Spanish 6 Oct 93 p 3

[Report by Carlos Castanaza Rosales]

[Text] Within the 48th ordinary session of the UN General Assembly [UNGA], Foreign Minister Arturo Fajardo Maldonado made a speech yesterday on behalf of the Guatemalan Government. He stressed peace, domestic reform, and the need to economically integrate Central America with the rest of the world.

According to the Foreign Ministry, Fajardo Maldonado spoke about the break in and subsequent reestablishment of constitutional order and indicated that as part of this process, political parties have formally pledged, in writing, to purge congressional membership.

Process Cannot Be Compared to Other Nations

He later said that because the promise has not been kept, President Ramiro De Leon Carpio, as representative of the people and according to the constitution, asked the TSE [Supreme Electoral Tribunal] to consult the people. This referendum will be held on 28 November.

"Guatemala is taking its own path. Its political process cannot be compared to other situations," the foreign minister said in concluding his remarks on this topic. He then turned to the issue of peace.

He said that the day before in Guatemala, the National Peace Plan and the Official Declaration on Human Rights had been presented, "seeking firm peace based on deep reconciliation through dialogue so the Guatemalans can find unity in the diversity of our values. [no closing quotation mark as published]

He also referred to a lasting and transforming peace, as well as to the process of reconciliation that will be promoted at the national, regional, departmental, municipal, and community level.

"Regarding the social demands, this entails on the part of the government the adoption of honest, efficient, and immediate measures to strengthen the protection and defense of human rights and actions that will lower poverty rates," the foreign minister added.

UN and OAS Cooperation for Human Rights

Regarding the specific topic of human rights, Fajardo asked the UN and OAS member countries to increase their presence and technical contribution to the actions that Guatemala and its institutions are carrying out to strengthen, develop, and improve mechanisms for the protection and defense of human rights.

"On behalf of my government, I ask the secretary general to promote a meeting with the URNG [Guatemalan National Revolutionary Unity] to discuss the revision of the Oslo and Mexico Agreements and to establish a calendar for the negotiations," Fajardo said after explaining the content of the proposal.

Guatemala hailed the peace process in El Salvador and between Israel and the PLO. He asked for a study of the case of the Republic of China on Taiwan and supported the initiative to expand the number of members of the Security Council with a regional perspective.

Honduras

Government Declares Medical Strike Illegal

PA0710174893 Tegucigalpa Voz de Honduras Network
in Spanish 1145 GMT 7 Oct 93

["Presidential Decree" issued in Tegucigalpa on 6 October; read by Presidential Press Secretary Olman Serrano on "The Morning Paper" newscast—recorded]

[Text] From the president of the Republic, who is in a meeting with the Council of Ministers:

Whereas: It is the state's responsibility to guarantee health protection for the country's citizens and the duty of all Hondurans to preserve and boost personal and community health;

Whereas: Broad areas of the country are in a state of emergency due to the serious damage caused by tropical storm Gert, which has left thousands of people without shelter. People have lost their homes and belongings, which has exposed them to infectious diseases such as cholera, due to new outbreaks;

Whereas: The Honduran Medical College, without submitting its claim to the Labor and Social Welfare Ministry for a decision, has gone ahead and decreed a suspension of Honduran hospital medical services, which the state offers the people, as an illegal method of exerting pressure on the authorities to demand an unfair and disproportionate increase in remunerations for doctors employed as public servants;

Whereas: This attitude of the Honduran Medical College is unacceptable because it infringes upon the law to the detriment of the sick and those who need medical care, thus making the doctors criminally and civilly responsible;

Whereas: Up to now the Honduran Medical College has rejected without valid reason the reasonable offers the state has presented to them through the Public Health secretary and the Public Credit Secretariat;

Whereas: In the face of the situation created by the Honduran Medical College by paralyzing medical services for the people, the executive branch is legally authorized to adopt required measures to avoid harm to the community and take necessary measures to reestablish suspended medical services and guarantee their normal functioning;

Therefore: And following the authority bestowed on him by Paragraphs 1, 18, 29, and 45 of Article 245 of Constitution of the Republic; Articles 554, 555, 556 of the Labor Code; and Article 3 of the statute for employed doctors;

Decrees:

First: To declare a state of emergency for public health services and assistance in all state-run hospitals and clinics.

Second: To declare as nonexistent the illegal strike decreed by the Honduran Medical College in the various Public Health dependencies, the Honduran Social Security Institute, and the National Autonomous University of Honduras.

Third: To order the heads of the institutions affected by the suspension of work by medical personnel to immediately take all necessary measures to reestablish normalcy in suspended medical services. These heads of institutions are fully empowered to:

1. Contract the medical personnel needed to ensure good medical services throughout the country.
2. To dismiss, transfer, or suspend the personnel who are not efficiently offering their services or who do not show up for work.
3. To contract private hospital medical services to efficiently provide the services required by all the people.
4. To request essential help from the Public Security Forces to maintain order in the hospitals or to ensure the safety of patient care.
5. To request the Attorney General's Office and the appropriate judicial authorities to outline civil, administrative, or penal responsibilities that striking workers will or may have incurred by illegally paralyzing the country's public medical services.

Fourth: This decree is effective on this date and should be published in the official LA GACETA newspaper.

Issued in Tegucigalpa, Central District Municipality, on 6 October 1993.

Nicaragua

Recontras Protest Troop Movements; Clashes Reported

PA0810001493 Managua Radio Corporacion in Spanish 1030 GMT 7 Oct 93

[Report by Novis Rosales in Matagalpa; from "The Awakening" newscast—live relay]

[Text] General Humberto Ortega's statement announcing a military offensive has caused unrest, weariness, and insecurity throughout the country. The truth is that these are not merely words. General Ortega has sent hundreds of troops into the northern region, and clashes have been reported. The situation in the country is deteriorating rapidly. Former Nicaraguan Resistance, RN, members are currently meeting in Matagalpa to seek ways to face this danger. They feel very unsafe, and some are even talking about returning to the mountains immediately before becoming moving targets.

Here is a report from Matagalpa by Novis Rosales:

[Rosales] More than 300 RN members met in this city to express their deep concern about the movement of troops in the northern region. They issued a communique, which reads in its main part:

1. Through this communique we condemn the military action carried out by the Nicaraguan Government against combatants of the 3-80 Northern Front.
2. This type of military action does not contribute to the national reconciliation process, and instead puts Nicaraguans—regardless of their political affiliation—on the defensive.
3. The Nicaraguan Government, through the use of weapons, has brought mourning to the Nicaraguan family, and it now intends to ignore agreements signed with the RN combatants when they demobilized in May and June 1990, and once again it wants to ignore agreements signed with 3-80 Northern Front fighters in the community of Caulatu, Quilali Municipality.

Commander Vows To Eliminate Recontras

PA0810002993 Managua Radio Corporacion in Spanish 2226 GMT 7 Oct 93

[Report by Lovis Rosales in Matagalpa; from the "Five O'Clock Sharp" newscast—live relay]

[Text] More than 80 medals and decorations were awarded in a special ceremony held at the military base in Waswali to a similar number of officers, noncommissioned officers, and soldiers. The medals and decorations were awarded by Major General Joaquin Cuadra and Lieutenant Colonel Rodrigo Gonzalez.

Meanwhile, the tone taken by Maj. Gen. Cuadra caused surprise, particularly when he said El Chacal's [Jose

Angel Talavera] time had run out and that he can only look forward to prison or death. Cuadra added that, given the current military situation in the northern region, he doubts that the Special Disarmament Brigade will continue its work gathering rifles and other war materiel held by those willing to end the armed struggle, particularly those in the northern zone.

It is noteworthy to mention that Maj. Gen. Cuadra said he will use all of his resources and he will bring a large number of troops to the northern zone to eliminate the last military redoubt, meaning El Chacal's forces. [passage indistinct]

Recontras Flee to Mountains

PA0810010593 Managua Radio Corporacion in Spanish
2239 GMT 7 Oct 93

[From the "Five O'Clock Sharp" newscast]

[Text] Nicaraguan Resistance Commander Jimmy Leo stated his concern when reviewing the signs of war currently prevailing in Nicaragua. Commander Jimmy Leo, who is chairman of the Nicaraguan Resistance's peace commission, said signs of violence are evident in the nation.

Major General Joaquin Cuadra, Chief of Staff of the Commander's office, today gave a warmongering speech in Matagalpa and predicted the death of contras who remain armed. More fighters have fled to the mountains because they do not feel safe in the city, according to Jimmy Leo.

[Begin recording] [Reporter] We are here with Commander Jimmy Leo, chairman of the Nicaraguan Resistance's peace commission, created to handle the problems faced by disarmed fighters in the north. Commander Jimmy Leo, what is the specific mission of the commission you preside over?

[Leo] The specific mission we have been entrusted with during a meeting with all the interested parties is to prevent the looming war and bloodshed, both for rearmed fighters and for the defenseless peasants who live in the mountains. The Army's arrival in these areas again creates an atmosphere of war. Therefore, all Nicaraguan Resistance members are concerned, and we want to prevent war and bloodshed right now.

[Reporter] The government and other interested groups have endorsed the idea of having the Nicaraguan Resistance forces divided in various sectors [words indistinct]. What is the commission's role in this? Does it represent all Nicaraguan Resistance forces?

[Leo] The commission represents all Nicaraguan Resistance groups, and we have shown the government that, when the lives of our members and the Nicaraguan people are threatened, we are ready to unite to face any situation.

[Reporter] How far are you prepared to go, commander?

[Leo] We will exhaust all the political options, we will negotiate with the government, and we will negotiate with the Armed Forces to prevent bloodshed. However, if things get out of hand and we do not reach an agreement to prevent a war with the government, then we will carry out other actions. We have yet to prepare the plans for this, but we are certainly determined to do whatever we have to. [end recording]

Bolivia**Intelligence Chief Allegedly Attacks Police Majors**

PY0710194793 La Paz Television Nacional Network in Spanish 1700 GMT 7 Oct 93

[Text] A serious accusation was made against the head of the police Intelligence Department in Congress this morning. According to the report, intelligence chief Colonel German Linares physically attacked two police majors, threatening them with death.

The report was made by Free Bolivia Movement Deputy Juan del Granado, president of the Chamber of Deputies Human Rights Committee.

[Begin recording] [Unidentified reporter] We understand Col. Linares, head of the police Intelligence Department, had problems with some officers.

[Del Granado] Yesterday, we received a troublesome report saying that two Bolivian police majors were not only physically attacked by Col. Linares, they also were publicly threatened with death. This attitude is of great concern to us.

It is not the first time Col. Linares has indulged in such acts of violence and aggression against citizen's rights. He was involved in Dr. Siles' [not further identified] kidnapping, and he is accused of being at least the brains behind a murder case.

The Human Rights Committee will send a note to the Bolivian police general commander today summoning him to meet us at his offices; then the Human Rights Committee will intervene. The head of the Bolivian police Intelligence Department cannot indulge in these types of excesses. The institution in charge of maintaining order cannot place positions of such responsibility in the hands of individuals with criminal records or a violent past. We will not accept this. We will ask the police commander, with all due respect for the institution, to provide a detailed report and then we will intervene in the case. [end recording]

Brazil**German Foreign Minister Meets Franco**

PY0810002893 Brasilia Voz do Brasil Network in Portuguese 2200 GMT 7 Oct 93

[Text] This morning, German Foreign Minister Klaus Kinkel met with President Itamar Franco and his Brazilian counterpart, Celso Amorim. One of the conversation's main topics was the continuation of the construction of the Angra-2 nuclear power station, which is funded by the German enterprise Siemens.

The German minister also advocated Brazil's signing of the treaty for nonproliferation of nuclear weapons in Latin America so Germany can continue cooperating

with Brazil in the nuclear energy area. The minister noted the importance of implementing nuclear safeguards.

Human rights and the constitutional reform also were mentioned during the conversation. The visitor advocated equal treatment for foreign and local capital in order to guarantee foreign investments in Brazil in the future.

Minister Klaus Kinkel invited President Franco to visit Germany in December as a testimony of the good relations between the two countries.

Kinkel Urges Signing of Non-Proliferation Treaty

LD0810094393 Hamburg DPA in German 1713 GMT 7 Oct 93

[Text] Brasilia (DPA)—Foreign Minister Klaus Kinkel has called upon Brazil to sign the Non-Proliferation Treaty [NPT] soon. Specific dates had not been discussed at his talks in Brasilia with President Itamar Franco and Foreign Minister Celso Amorim. However, "we would be glad if Brazil signed the NPT soon," Kinkel told reporters in Brazil. He was spending today in the Brazilian capital on a one-day working visit. Afterwards he planned to fly on to Buenos Aires, where he will chair a conference of German ambassadors to Latin American countries.

According to Kinkel, the agreement on the exclusively peaceful use of nuclear energy signed between the Latin American nuclear states of Brazil, Argentina, and Mexico, and the International Atomic Energy Agency was not enough. It was indeed a step in the right direction, but Bonn wished for the nuclear field to be monitored internationally within the framework of the NPT. This also applied to the Angra-2 nuclear power station near Rio, in whose construction the Siemens company is playing a substantial part. The completion of the plant has been postponed for years due to financial constraints on the part of the Brazilians. Dieter Kastrup, state secretary at the Foreign Ministry, and Brazilian Energy Minister Paulino Cicero wanted to cover questions about nuclear cooperation separately.

Human rights issues were also discussed in his talks. Asked about right-wing extremism in Germany, Kinkel said: "We are ashamed of these incidents."

The minister also commented on constitutional reform, which is highly controversial in the parliament in Brasilia. Among other things, the legal framework for foreign investment should be redefined in that context. Germany hoped that the new constitution would grant equal status to foreign and Brazilian capital, otherwise there would be no further investment in the future. German investment in the largest South American state amounted to 8.4 billion German marks in 1990. It was exceeded only by the United States.

Kinkel emphasized the friendship that had grown between Germans and Brazilians. With four German schools and seven Goethe Institutes, Germany has a very high profile all over Brazil.

Supreme Court Annuls Ban on Constitutional Reform

PY0810002493 Brasilia Voz do Brasil Network in Portuguese 2200 GMT 7 Oct 93

[Text] The Federal Supreme Court has turned down a resolution by Supreme Court member Marco Aurelio, who suspended the constitutional reform by Congress. The first vote during the court session, cast by Justice Marco Aurelio, confirmed the resolution on the grounds that there was no quorum in the joint 22 September session when the reform bill was read. Aurelio added that checking for compliance with quorum rules does not entail intervention into legislative branch affairs.

The Supreme Court session is not over yet, but Justice Marco Aurelio has already lost because five other members already have voted against Aurelio's resolution on the grounds that adjudicating a decision by the head of the legislative branch would amount to intervention in the branch's affairs.

This decision will cancel the request for an injunction filed by four parties against a decision by the Congress president to read the constitutional reform bill on 22 September. Based on this decision, Congress can begin the constitutional reform work today.

Even before the issuance of a final decision by the Supreme Court, Deputy Inocencio Oliveira, lower house president, was boasting of victory because the Supreme Court had granted an appeal [agravo regimental] filed by Congress requesting that the Supreme Court's plenary session analyze the subject.

Deputy Oliveira described the opening constitutional reform session, which will be held today. It will be a simple, rapid session, without guests, without a quorum requirement, and with two speeches: one by him and another by Congress President Senator Humberto Lucena. As for the Supreme Court decision, Oliveira said the harmony and independence of the branches of government have been restored.

A short time ago, Lucena reported that at 2030 today, before the opening constitutional reform session, a session will be held to inform deputies and senators about the Supreme Court decision. Two other sessions were held this afternoon as part of a civic wake being held while awaiting the Supreme Court's decision. After the opening constitutional reform session, Lucena will call for another session to begin debating the preliminary rules for voting on the regulations for voting on the Constitution's reform.

Chile

PSCh Party Believes Russia on Verge of 'Dictatorship'

PY0710153793 Santiago Radio Cooperativa Network in Spanish 1000 GMT 7 Oct 93

[Text] Chilean Socialists have noted that Western governments should exert pressure toward achieving a solution involving authentic democratic participation in Russia, instead of unconditionally supporting Boris Yeltsin. The political committee of the Socialist Party of Chile [PSCh] has pointed out that the Russian president's inability and authoritarian leanings are becoming increasingly obvious.

The PSCh communique, released by [PSCh Secretary General] Luis Maira, indicates that the recent events in Russia represent another link in a chain of negative events. The PSCh communique adds that Gorbachev's experiment has been transformed from democratic socialism into an anarchic process of serious economic deterioration and a pent-up power struggle, which is reflected in the recent events.

[Begin Maira recording] The way in which this situation has been resolved nauseates civilized humanity. Although the international media are making an effort to present a different impression, their own images show a true massacre, in which one state branch has overpowered another through sword and fire.

It does not seem that Boris Yeltsin's government or his opponents in the parliament expressed an effective willingness to hold talks. For our own part, we still believe that force will never be the only or best way to resolve political conflicts. [end recording]

The PSCh political committee's communique, released by Luis Maira, adds that the crisis will continue to heighten, and will spread to other regions. The communique describes as simplistic and Manichaean those who believe that the situation has been resolved and that democracy has won.

[Begin Maira recording] Quite the contrary, we fear that Russia is more than ever on the verge of a dictatorship. The massive intervention by the Army, the removal of public rights, and the harassment of political dissidents all represent a prelude to the antidemocratic installation of a dictator disguised as the fatherland's savior, and once again deprives the Russian people of a liberty they have very seldom enjoyed throughout their history. This obvious risk requires careful monitoring by the international community. [end recording]

The PSCh political committee recalls that more than one-third of the nuclear weapons existing in the world are in the hands of the Armed Forces and leaders of Russia.

The Chilean Socialists point out that it is always possible that anarchy and conflict might escalate in such a way that they would jeopardize the security of the whole of

humanity, even more so after the current leaders have demonstrated so much irresponsibility in the management of their disagreements.

Ω Roundup on Environmental Issues for Aug-Sep 93P20364A

[Editorial Report]

Santiago Air Pollution

The Ministry of Transportation and Telecommunications and the Special Decontamination Commission of the metropolitan region have launched a campaign of free emissions evaluations for car owners. The emissions checks will be performed in four places in Santiago during two weekends in September and will provide the drivers with information showing what repairs need to be made to reduce emissions. Transportation Minister German Molina states that the goal is to create greater awareness among car owners, since roughly 45 percent of private cars currently exceed permitted emissions levels. (Santiago EL MERCURIO 5 Sep 93)

Lead Levels in Children

The Public Health Institute has been sponsoring a study to measure the levels of lead in the blood of Chilean children. The study, which began in 1992, is following 800 children in Santiago and 160 in San Felipe from birth to age two, with blood samples being taken every six months. So far the results of this study, the first of its kind to be carried out in Chile, show no cause for concern, according to participating physician Patricia Frenz. Frenz says that blood lead levels greater than 10 micrograms per milliliter may cause developmental problems in children. Less than 1 percent of the newborns and only 3.2 percent of the six-month-old children in the study have exceeded that level. (Santiago EL MERCURIO 1 Sep 93)

Water Treatment Plant

The first sewage treatment plant in Santiago officially began operating on 12 August. Located in Maipu, the plant will treat 200 liters per second of water which formerly was discharged into the Mapocho River; the water will now be used to irrigate 400 hectares. A total of \$14 million has been invested in the plant, which is part of an integrated sewage treatment program for the metropolitan region that will cost \$63 million over the 1990-94 period. The plant uses low-cost, unconventional technology developed by an Israeli consortium to remove a high percentage of pathogenic microorganisms. The plant also includes a laboratory where studies will be conducted on applying this technology elsewhere in Santiago. (Santiago EL MERCURIO 11, 12 Aug 93)

Industrial Pollution

Camilo Perez Vicencio, the mayor of Puchuncavi in Valparaíso Province, has stated that the entire country has benefitted from the operation of the National Mining Enterprise's copper foundry and the Chilgener electric plant at the cost of the impoverishment of the

towns of Ventanas and Puchuncavi. He says that pollution from the plants has caused health problems in residents and the deterioration of agricultural land to the point where it is no longer usable. Perez charges that although President Aylwin has approved a decontamination plan for both companies, there has not been any effective action by the government to reverse the situation in his town. (Santiago EL MERCURIO 24 Aug 93)

Todos los Santos Hydroelectric Project

Ministry of Public Works Undersecretary Juan Enrique Miguel has reported that Endesa (National Electric Company) will not appeal to the Supreme Court the Santiago Appeals Court's ruling against the construction of a hydroelectric plant in the 10th Region. The plant would have drawn water from the Petrohue River and Todos los Santos Lake inside the Vicente Perez Rosales National Park. According to Miguel, the Ministry's Directorate of Waters based its opposition to the project on an international treaty known as the Washington Convention rather than on Chilean law. "Luckily, our country's signing this international agreement permits us to deny authorization for water rights for environmental reasons, which unfortunately our Water Code does not cover," Miguel remarked. He went on to say that the government has submitted to the legislature a number of Water Code reforms that would allow the state to act in defense of the environment. (Santiago EL MERCURIO 24 Aug 93)

Gray Fox Poaching

Although Agriculture Ministry Regional Secretary Fernando Baeriswyl has estimated that at least 12,000 gray foxes are killed illegally every year in Tierra del Fuego, the Animal Protection Society believes that it is not necessary to intervene. According to Society spokesman Carlos Vergara: "We know that there is hunting and that furs have been seized, but one cannot talk about indiscriminate killing, because we have no evidence of it. According to the information gathered by the Society, the fox population in the Tierra del Fuego region has increased from 21,000, as calculated during the July 1992 census by the Agriculture and Livestock Service, to 28,000 in May 1993." He also says that a new census is to be carried out in August. (Santiago EL MERCURIO 2 Aug 93)

Criticism of Environmental Law

Several nongovernmental environmentalist groups—including the Ecology Institute of Chile, Codeff (Corporation for the Defense of Flora and Fauna), Renace (National Network for Ecological Action), and the Institute of Political Ecology—have expressed concern about the proposed Basic Environmental Law now under consideration by the Chamber of Deputies. The organizations have issued a statement saying that if the bill is not changed substantially, "it will not fulfill its goal of being an effective tool for protecting the environment and developing the country." They claim that the bill, instead of stating general principles, focuses on environmental impact studies. Such studies, they argue, "give

only an appearance of protection" because they do not provide a means for the public to take action against those who damage the environment.

The declaration also criticizes the five-year limitation on suits for ecological damage, saying that "this very brief time period is a step backwards from current environmental legislation," which has the "opposite" effect of setting no deadline on legal action against offenders. The organizations also assert that the bill denies the government the power to prohibit projects that might damage the environment, allowing the government only the right to make corrections to the environmental impact studies. The requirement in the law that the studies be approved within 120 days, a deadline that can be shortened to 30 days, is said by the organizations to be too short a time "given the complexity of these studies." (Santiago EL MERCURIO 3 Sep 93)

Colombia

30 Injured in Bomb Attack on Police Bus

PA0810043493 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0315 GMT
8 Oct 93

[Text] Santa Fe de Bogota, 7 Oct (EFE)—At least 30 policemen were injured tonight when a police bus was attacked with explosives in the central part of Santa Fe de Bogota. According to initial reports, at least seven policemen are in critical condition. Although some witnesses reported that there were deaths, this has not been officially confirmed.

The bus was completely destroyed by the explosion, apparently caused by a dynamite stick activated by remote control. Journalistic sources reported that 10 people, who were near the site of the explosion, were slightly injured, and that the windows in nearby buildings were shattered. The authors of the attack, which occurred in the Chapinero neighborhood, are still unknown.

The injured policemen were transferred to the Central Military Hospital and the Marly Clinic, which were the nearest to the site of the explosion.

Bombs Rock Santa Fe de Bogota; 2 Policemen Killed

PA0810052093 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0436 GMT
8 Oct 93

[Text] Santa Fe de Bogota, 7 Oct (EFE)—At least two more bomb blasts shook Santa Fe de Bogota tonight, less than 90 minutes after a first attack killed two policemen and injured 38. It is not known yet if these two other attacks have caused any casualties or damage.

One of the attacks took place at approximately 2315 (0415 GMT 8 October) in El Restrepo neighborhood, southern Bogota, when a car bomb was hurled against a home. The second explosion took place at the corner of 16th Avenue and 42d Street, less than two blocks from

the EFE office in Bogota, in one of the presidential campaign offices of Liberal Party candidate Ernesto Samper.

'Escobar's Last Bodyguard' Killed

PA0710174193 Santa Fe de Bogota Emisoras Caracol
Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 7 Oct 93

[Interview with Medellin Metropolitan Police Commander Colonel (Luis Humberto Gilibert) by unidentified station announcer on the "Caracol Quarter of an Hour" newscast; place not given—live]

[Text] [Announcer] Good morning, Colonel.

[(Gilibert)] Good morning.

[Announcer] About the operation during which [Medellin Cartel members] Alfonso Puerta Munoz [alias Angelito] and his brother were killed, what did it entail and when did it begin?

[(Gilibert)] This is the result of a very conscientious, intelligent effort by the Search Bloc over the past few days. It came to fruition last night when the police captured Alfonso Puerta and his brother, Jaime Alberto. Unfortunately, these individuals engaged in a shootout with Search Bloc personnel and both of them were killed.

[Announcer] Can we infer that these two gentlemen had been with Pablo Escobar Gaviria hours earlier?

[(Gilibert)] It would be risky to jump to such a conclusion because they had many contacts. The fact is we received a tip that one of these men were in the area. We did not know for sure if it was Angelito, but during the shootout we confirmed that it was.

[Announcer] Colonel, were the police and Search Bloc successful thanks to citizen cooperation?

[(Gilibert)] The Search Bloc acted very intelligently and worked very hard [words indistinct], but if the people want to cooperate, that is all right.

[Announcer] Did Angelito resist? Did he manage to get out of the taxi in which he was traveling to the residence in Villahermosa neighborhood?

[(Gilibert)] Yes. As he was getting out of the station wagon the police demanded his surrender. He turned around, took a machine gun out of the vehicle, and opened fire.

[Announcer] What did his brother do?

[(Gilibert)] His brother supported him. He got out of the vehicle with a pistol in his hand and started shooting.

[Announcer] Col. (Gilibert), it has been said that a cache was found or at least that the Search Bloc was looking for it. Has it been found?

[(Gilibert)] No, we have nothing on that. The Prosecutor General's Office and the Attorney General's Office were conducting an investigation at the time of the capture.

[Announcer] What criminal implements did you find at residence No. 4028 on 60th Street in Villahermosa neighborhood, a lower middle-class neighborhood in Medellin?

[(Gilibert)] The confrontation took place in the street in front of No. 4028, but we found nothing peculiar inside the house.

[Announcer] Have you arrested anyone else from nearby homes? Neighbors who may have been involved?

[(Gilibert)] No, the Search Bloc wanted to capture Angelito.

[Announcer] Was Angelito Pablo Escobar's last bodyguard or do you think Escobar may have others?

[(Gilibert)] According to our investigation and after talking to La Catedral personnel, Angelito was the last bodyguard who was with Pablo Escobar at La Catedral.

[Announcer] Could they have subsequently bolstered their ranks with other people?

[(Gilibert)] We are investigating that. It is a possibility, but at any rate, Angelito was the last man from the organization who was with Escobar.

[Announcer] Over the past few days, the Search Bloc has carried out a vast search operation in Medellin's Las Lomas neighborhood to find Pablo Escobar. Is the operation still in progress?

[(Gilibert)] The Search Bloc has a very specific mission and must continue until that mission is fulfilled.

[Announcer] How well founded are reports by area residents that they saw Pablo Escobar emerge from a sewer?

[(Gilibert)] Those are reports from people who want to cooperate, so they daydream a little and make certain reports. For the Search Bloc, however, all information is valid and worth investigating.

[Announcer] A television newscast announced the night before last that Search Bloc policemen fired tear gas into a certain sewer, presumably because Pablo Escobar was inside. Is that true?

[(Gilibert)] No, it is not true. We have not fired tear gas into a sewer. That is someone's daydream.

[Announcer] Col. (Gilibert), there have been a few complaints about the prosecutor general's remarks. Certain sectors have interpreted them as a criticism of the Search Bloc and the Metropolitan Police, which you currently head. He said that you did not provide sufficient or adequate protection for Pablo Escobar's family and that the police did not have the necessary controls to prevent a grenade attack on the Escobar residence, which was being guarded by people from the Prosecutor General's Office.

[(Gilibert)] We did not know that Pablo Escobar's relatives lived in that area. The police and the Search Bloc never received any request to secure, control, or guard that residence.

[Announcer] You did not receive any information from your superiors in the capital of the Republic, the Prosecutor General's Office, or the Defense Ministry?

[(Gilibert)] No, no. Never. The Prosecutor General's Office was carrying out its own operation. It had people there under its protection and control and did not need the Medellin police or the Search Bloc to reinforce them. We were never informed of what was going on.

[Announcer] After all the speculation and reports that have been circulated and broadcast by Latin American and international news media regarding Pablo Escobar's past presence in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, do you believe, like the prosecutor general, that Escobar has been in Colombia over the past few months and may be in some part of La Urrea valley?

[(Gilibert)] I have a very personal opinion. When a policeman expresses an opinion, people can easily interpret it as the position of the National Police or of the institution itself. I think the gentleman is in La Urrea valley. That is what I believe.

[Announcer] Colonel, the prosecutor general says that the police and Army had men near the residence of Pablo Escobar's relatives. Is that true?

[(Gilibert)] No, no, no. We did not know that Pablo Escobar's relatives lived in that part of the town. We found out when the [words indistinct] came and the issue was discussed. We did not know before that time.

[Announcer] With due respect, Colonel, everyone in the area and in La Urrea valley knew where Pablo Escobar's family was. How is it possible that the police were the last to find out?

[(Gilibert)] The people who knew and did not tell us either have ties or are employed by the Prosecutor General's Office. There is no other way to explain the fact that we were not informed. The Prosecutor General's Office had the situation under control and maintained a very prudent and professional silence in order to conduct the operation. Today they are saying that everyone knew, but I am not so sure that is true.

[Announcer] The police and Prosecutor General's Office are that far removed from each other?

[(Gilibert)] The Prosecutor General's Office can conduct operations within its own sphere of authority. It need not inform the police if it is not necessary.

Government Accords Guerrillas Political Status

PA0710204893 Santa Fe de Bogota EL NUEVO SIGLO in Spanish 4 Oct 93 p 11a

[All quotation marks as published]

[Text] The national government has decided to grant the status of political organization "outside the law" to the Simon Bolivar National Guerrilla Coordinating Board [CNGSB]. This is the way this organization will be recognized from now on by the international community. This conclusion follows from a document the Colombian Government will present this week to the Inter-American Human Rights Committee of the Organization of American States (OAS).

EL NUEVO SIGLO was able to learn parts of the document where the Foreign Relations Ministry expresses some considerations with respect to human rights violations, and the negotiation process with the Colombian guerrillas. The state will indicate before the OAS that, in general, considering the level of violence, the national government has outlined and implemented measures that must necessarily lead to peaceful coexistence and the strengthening of democracy.

"As a complement, the state maintains its policy of negotiation with the guerrillas. This policy is guided by several principles and objectives with a single foundation: The government negotiates with the guerrillas within the framework of the Constitution and the law. As an example, it cannot grant pardons and amnesties, which are issues that must necessarily be approved by congress through a bill," the document states.

The government will also explain to the OAS that it is impossible to accept the notion of the guerrillas representing a sector of the population. "The fact that their speeches include poverty situations does not mean that those who confront economic problems look to the guerrillas as their spokesmen. For this to be valid, a free democratic exercise would be required, which would be difficult to accept, especially coming from armed organizations."

In this respect, the Foreign Ministry will explain to the OAS that there are three basic requirements of the negotiation policy. First, the government will propose that negotiations are the states' responsibilities as per constitutional mandate. Second, that main objective of any negotiation must be the demobilization of the guerrillas and their reincorporation into civilian life. Third, the guerrillas, despite whatever evolution they may have achieved in the past, still have a political reason for existing. In other words, they are a political organization conducting operations outside the constitution and the law."

For the Foreign Ministry, "the adoption of these three yardsticks will necessarily lead toward negotiations where it is possible to reach an agreement." Foreign Relations Minister Noemi Sanin Rubio will also inform the OAS Inter-American Human Rights Committee that despite the aforementioned three guidelines, the Army of National Liberation (ELN) and the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC) have never given any evidence of their willingness for peace.

According to the document, during the peace negotiations that took place in 1991 and 1992, the guerrillas

insisted on wanting to disqualify the government's rights at the negotiating table, which led them to insistently demand the presence of other social and political sectors. "Of course, the only reason for this was to take advantage of the public scenario that negotiations of this type entails."

Likewise, the government will denounce the fact that guerrillas subsist in Colombia because it can rely on vast economic support originating from drug trafficking and kidnappings and not as a result of support from the civilian population.

Ecuador

Peru Accepts Nonaggression Agreement at UN

PA0810034093 Quito Voz de los Andes in Spanish 1200 GMT 7 Oct 93

[Text] The Peruvian Government has formally accepted, before the United Nations, a nonaggression agreement precluding the use of force. The agreement was drafted by Ecuadoran Foreign Relations Minister Diego Paredes. The Peruvian foreign minister said Peru is willing to establish coordination and consultation mechanisms between the two countries. He also stated that the Peruvian Government wants to (?discuss) and peacefully resolve a dispute that has lasted many years.

The United States supports the Ecuadoran proposal to preclude the use of force in its border dispute with Peru. The State Department conveyed the U.S. Government's greetings to Ecuadoran Foreign Minister Paredes and urged Ecuador and Peru not to resort to threats of using force as a means to settle international disputes. A communique signed by spokesman Michael Comrie added that such a commitment by the two countries could make a major contribution to the preservation of peace in South America.

Paraguay

'Violent Demonstration' Outside Congress

PY0710184593 Asuncion RPC Television Network in Spanish 1505 GMT 7 Oct 93

[Text] A violent demonstration to protest the draft bill stripping members of the military of their party membership took place early this morning in front of the Congress building.

[Begin live relay] [video shows crowd gathered in front of Congress, shouting "corrupt"; president of Chamber of Deputies Francisco Jose De Vargas talking on cellular phone] [De Vargas] Hello, hello. Yes, Lucho. I heard the president of the Republic informing the chief of police that there is free access. We were attacked here. The officials and we were attacked, but the police have done nothing about it, Lucho. I am in front of the Congress building. What is the problem that nobody has come yet? [video shows De Vargas ending phone call]

[Unidentified reporter] Who is Lucho?

[De Vargas] Gonzalez. You witnessed the attack, but the police have remained impassive. We do not have a government. The Republic has no government. This is what has been demonstrated. Why is there no government? I heard the chief of police tell the president of the Republic that there was free access, but as you can see that is not the case and they are incapable of removing 100 drunkards from Congress. This means we have no government, no government.

[National Encounter Senator Basilio Nikiphoroff] What they are protesting is the initiative to strip members of the military of their party membership. Do not come and tell me this is a spontaneous demonstration.

[De Vargas] I am not afraid of the attacks. They are telling me to go away because they fear I might be attacked. Just imagine, they are telling me to remove myself from in front of Congress so I will not be attacked. Of all people they are asking me, the president of the Chamber of Deputies, to go away. This just goes to show the guarantees we enjoy in our Republic. I was hit with a beer can here.

[Reporter] What do they want, what do they seek?

[De Vargas] Nothing. They are just trying to show that they intend to close Congress.

[Reporter] Why?

[De Vargas] I do not know. They haven't even told me yet why they want to do this. Just listen to them. They are all drunk. They were brought here in trucks with impunity, with the approval of the chief of police, who had been guarding them since 0500 this morning so they could occupy the place. The chief of police is involved in all this.

[Reporter] Who told you to come here and do all this?

[Unidentified demonstrator] The president.

[Reporter] What do you have to say about all this that is happening? It is quite unbelievable.

[Nikiphoroff] It is unbelievable. This is the path that will lead to a coup. Let us be honest, they are seeking destabilization, they are truly seeking to generate an incident, someone's death, because this could have been much more serious. We are very lucky this did not end in a worse manner. I was badly hurt on the arm by a person I have fully identified. But that was nothing. They threw cans, beer cans. Just imagine, why were so many trucks able to come and close Congress with such impunity? Some one must have given the order and allowed this to happen. Why were they not dispersed? Yesterday, when Luis Esperanza was here, that is, a group of poor children, they were kicked out in no time. What is going on now? Where are the police? There are 12 people here. What is going to happen if these people suddenly decide to barge in? Why do they not come? Why does the PEO [Special Operations Police] not come?

[Reporter] We calculate that there are approximately 1,500 people who, to strengthen their arguments, are throwing firecrackers and insulting whoever tries to enter the Congress building.

[Reporter] What is your name?

[Demonstrator] Emiliano Garcia.

[Reporter] Where are you from?

[Demonstrator] Chore.

[Reporter] Why have you come?

[Demonstrator] We have come to defend democracy, young lady.

[Reporter] Are you supporting the military? [answer indistinct]

[Reporter] Have you come to defend democracy with this kind of demonstration?

[Unidentified individual] Let us remain calm, let us go outside. It is impossible in here.

[Reporter] Gentlemen, have you come to defend democracy with this kind of demonstration? [answer indistinct]

[Reporter] Are you in favor of members of the military being affiliated with the Colorado Party?

[Demonstrator] We are against stripping the military of their political membership.

[Demonstrator] A fine representative of the people you are.

[De Vargas] I never invited you here. I never invited a hooligan in here.

[Demonstrator] Ah, yes. Why, then, did you send your vice president to invite us?

[De Vargas] Invite you for what?

[Demonstrator] Invite us to chat with you.

[De Vargas] You insulted a legislator. I heard you do so.

[Demonstrator] Does this mean that only you have the right to insult us? We are as good representatives of the people as you are. Very funny!

[Video shows demonstrators shouting "scoundrel" as PLRA [Authentic Radical Liberal Party] Deputy Hermes Rafael Sanguier arrives in Congress]

[Sanguier] [words indistinct] democracy and act in a totalitarian manner.

[Reporter] Deputy, it is said that these people are lead by [Colorado Party President] Blas N. Riquelme specifically to stage a demonstration.

[Sanguier] I learned that they went to Santani, that they paid people to come with the specific purpose of attacking legislators. Is this what the governability pact is all about?

[Colorado Party Second Vice President Juan Manuel Cano Melgarejo] The corresponding article of the Constitution clearly establishes that they cannot become affiliated in the future. This subject was exhaustively discussed during the Constituent Assembly. This acquired right is respected. The law does not have a retroactive effect. This has been clearly established. But now, taking advantage of a circumstantial majority, they are trying to impose a law to strip them of their party membership, to strip them of a right they have acquired by their own and spontaneous desire.

This demonstration is fully justified. I cannot justify those who have gone overboard; this is something that happens anywhere. I cannot justify any act of violence. We do uphold a legitimate and peaceful act of defense.

[Reporter] What will the Colorado Party do if this circumstantial majority, as you call it, is maintained?

[Cano] What is the result? This is a provocation. It is hard to tell what will happen when there is so much provocation.

[Reporter] Who provoked?

[Cano] Who provoked? You know perfectly well; you know who is promoting this law. You know perfectly well; you know perfectly well. Senator Sanchez, Victor Sanchez Villagra [of the National Encounter], is promoting a draft bill that is being promoted taking advantage of this majority. [end relay]

Silvia Carvallo and Manuel Cuenca now will tell us what is happening in front of Congress. Go ahead, we are listening to you.

[Begin live relay] [Cuenca] There are no demonstrators, policemen, nor any buses left here in front of the Congress building. The last one has just left. There is a lot of rubbish left on this street from staged incidents one hour ago that prompted a generalized protest against legislators and other groups in the country. During this demonstration several opposition legislators were attacked.

Silvia Carvallo attended the Chamber of Deputies session. She now will inform us about the resolution approved at the session's end.

[Carvallo] The Chamber of Deputies, through a declaration, has expressed the need for the executive branch, through the Interior Ministry, to dismiss the acting national chief of police, Inspector General German Franco Vargas, charged with seriously neglecting his duties, and to appropriately sanction him for not fulfilling his duties.

The declaration also voices solidarity with the president of the Chamber of Deputies, Francisco Jose De Vargas; legislators; Congress officials; and journalists who were the victims of attacks today. The declaration further condemns the demonstration that prevented legislators from entering the Congress building because this incident represents an attack on the country's democratic

institutions. The declaration also points out the need to investigate the crimes committed today to determine who is or was the author and accomplice of them.

It should be pointed out that several proposals were made during the session. Some legislators believed that the demonstrators should not be received, others, that the session should be suspended. Finally it was agreed to form a commission comprising all the members of the Chamber of Deputies' leadership and the bloc leaders to hold a dialogue with representatives of the demonstrators. This meeting was held behind closed doors; the media was not allowed to attend the event, not even photographers. Once the meeting was over the representatives of the demonstrators reported that the deputies had promised to reject the draft bill stripping soldiers and police of their political membership, which contradicts what the deputies said. The deputies said they had made no promises in this direction, that the draft bill will be discussed and the Chamber of Deputies will opportunistically voice its opinion on the subject. In two words, there have been no promises. This is what the leaders told the demonstrators, who then left this site.

[Cuenca] [PLRA Senator] Domingo Laino and Blas N. Riquelme also were here when the demonstrators moved toward Government House. Laino announced that the talks on the governability pact were suspended and that dialogue, in view of these incidents, should continue. Blas N. Riquelme said they, morally speaking, assume responsibility for these incidents but not for the attacks on legislators.

Moreover, the Association of Journalists accredited to Congress has issued a communique repudiating and condemning acts of vandalism perpetrated by a group seemingly led by leaders of San Pedro Department's Colorado Party precinct.

As a result of the incidents the following journalists were injured: Gustavo Fretes of RPC and Marcos Caceres of ABC COLOR. The Association of Journalists believes that this type of attitude by no means will contribute to the strengthening of the transition process toward democracy.

Anything else Silvia?

[Carvallo] Right. It should be noted that former Congress President Waldino Ramon Lovera was here this morning to voice his solidarity with lawmakers and the other people who were attacked by the demonstrators.

[Cuenca] There is nothing else to report from the area in front of Congress. We go back to the studio. [end relay]

Thank you. We reiterate that Colorado Party Executive Board President Blas N. Riquelme said that the Colorado Party leadership fully supports today's demonstration in front of Congress.

[Begin recording] [Unidentified reporter] Asked to give an opinion on the incidents, Blas N. Riquelme voiced his

solidarity with the Colorado rank-and-file demonstrators. He said the party Executive Board has already expressed its full disagreement with the bill cancelling soldiers' and policemen's party memberships.

[Riquelme] The party Executive Board issued a statement 22 days ago rejecting the request by some lawmakers to cancel the party membership of some of our fellow party members in the Army on the grounds that it is unconstitutional and biased. It is very simple. The request has been rejected, and not only has it been rejected but I believe the party will fully support the statement. All Colorado Party members support our fellow party members in the Army.

[Reporter] Should we attach this meaning to the demonstration by Colorado Party members in front of Congress?

[Riquelme] Of course. As I already have told other reporters, Congress is always full of people, with rumors and concerns, which I believe are all logical and reasonable. The Colorado Party, that is, we, the Colorados, also have the right to express ourselves the way it was done this morning.

[Reporter] However, lawmakers have complained that they were not allowed to enter the Congress building and that some of them were the target of sort of personal attacks. What do you think about it?

[Riquelme] In this regard, I already have released my opinion to the public in my capacity as party president; I have apologized, if such a thing happened. I apologized on behalf of my fellow party men, because, if that did happen, it was not right. I reiterate the position of the party and the party president, that such actions are inappropriate. On behalf of the party, I apologize to the lawmakers who were the victims of what you are saying, because I did not see anything. But if this actually occurred, I reiterate my apology on behalf of my fellow party members who were and are in Congress.

[Reporter] In one word, you support this demonstration by northern rank-and-file Colorados, right?

[Riquelme] Totally. [end recording]

For his part, Interior Minister Carlos Podesta said the law will be enforced, no matter what.

[Begin Podesta recording] When Dr. De Vargas called me very early today, at about 0700, telling me what was happening, I told him that we would restore order in less than 60 minutes. It took us 46 minutes to put everything in its place.

I believe this habit that people are acquiring, of blocking highways, closing factories, now they want to block Congress and tomorrow they will block banks, reveals that people are abusing their freedom because all these actions are illegal. We are very sorry, but we will enforce the law no matter who. Just as today we removed demonstrators from the Congress building in order to

guarantee the security of congressmen and the rights of Congress, we will have to do it whenever the law is broken.

This is a very bad habit and I believe now that this type of demonstration is unjustified. I believe even 100,000 demonstrators can come, but they can stand in front of the Congress building and decently express their viewpoints. No one will question them for that. The police will, at most, cordon off the area to protect demonstrators. But when demonstrators attack the institutions and the people, we have to take action. [end recording]

Wasmosy Explains Protest

PY0710202193 Asuncion Cerro Cora Sistema Nacional de Television Network in Spanish 1448 GMT 7 Oct 93

[News conference by President Juan Carlos Wasmosy at Government Palace in Asuncion—live]

[Text] [Wasmosy] Good morning, ladies and gentlemen. This impromptu news conference, granted outside the regular schedule to provide information to the communications media, is being made to voice assurances to the people that we are living in a state of law, in a democratic state, in which we admit demonstrations by the people provided that these demonstrations are carried out within the framework of law and order.

We are living in a state of democracy in Paraguay, where the state of law and freedom of expression or freedom to demonstrate are fully in force. The executive branch has the obligation to watch over and enforce respect for the citizens' rights to express themselves, as provided for in our Constitution. And we must admit this even when government officials are severely criticized, as happens in most cases, and as happened in front of the national Congress, and whether these criticisms are made through the press or through any other legal method, we respect those rights.

However, this government does not admit and will never tolerate violent or covert means by which to disturb public order. In this sense I want to tell the Paraguayan people that upon receiving information from the interior minister that these demonstrators were blocking access to Congress, I gave direct orders to him and to the police chief to clear access to the national Congress. This order was immediately complied with.

But I cannot order the police to begin beating the demonstrators, only to open up access to Congress, with the respect that must prevail among citizens. This was done, and the congressmen and officials gained access to the national Congress.

I want to reiterate to all citizens that public demonstrations like those staged this morning do not undermine, nor will they ever undermine, the development of this democratic process. And to guarantee this further, I have talked to the Chamber of Deputies president, who called me, and immediately afterward I also talked to the police chief.

In order to learn whether or not these people had authorization to stage a demonstration, I will order an investigation and the results of this investigation will be released immediately. Therefore, I want you to remain calm, as I am not going to adopt any hasty or unjust measure. But within the powers given to us by law, we will enforce that law to clear up this situation. Thanks very much to all journalists.

[Unidentified reporter] Mr. President, would you allow some questions from members of the press, please?

[Wasmosy] Yes, of course.

[Reporter] What is the information you have, or what answer can you give, to these various reports by congressmen of aggressive acts by drunk demonstrators in front of the national Congress this morning?

[Wasmosy] I condemn it. I do not approve of it at all.

[Reporter] As president of the Republic and as commander in chief of the Armed Forces, some congressmen have said that General Lino Cesar Oviedo is behind this situation in front of the national Congress. What answer can you give to this?

[Wasmosy] In order to discover the truth I have ordered the investigation. I do not want to bring false charges against him or against anyone.

[Reporter] When you say that someone could be behind these demonstrations, what do you really mean?

[Wasmosy] I have not said that someone could be behind these demonstrations. Please do not distort my words.

[Reporter] I want to correct the question from my colleague, Mr. President. Congressmen themselves have said that there is open opposition to their activities, especially to the activities of the opposition, and that there is someone provoking and inciting people to reactions of this nature against them.

[Wasmosy] Well, we are in a state of democracy and anyone can stage a demonstration, as is done usually by union leaders, peasants, and so forth, who also expressed their opposition to our support for the Labor Code. This is a free country. However, I do not agree with the manner in which they behave. If they demonstrate peacefully, if they request meetings with congressmen, this is legal, but they must inform the police 24 hours in advance. That is, all those people who respect the provisions of the current laws will have our support, but those who do not, well, they will be outside the law, and I must enforce the law against anyone.

[Reporter] Mr. President, how much time have you given for finishing these investigations?

[Wasmosy] You are jumping the gun, sir. An investigation can take half an hour or sometimes a week.

[Reporter] Is the police chief's attitude correct, considering that the Chamber of Deputies president said his resignation should be requested?

[Wasmosy] These are the opinions of the Chamber of Deputies president. I accept them, but I do not agree with them. I would rather talk after the investigations, and not before, to avoid making false accusations against anyone.

[Reporter] Mr. President, concerning the delay before the police came to the aid of the congressmen and to defend their security, the Chamber of Deputies president said that there was a delay.

[Wasmosy] I want to repeat that this is the personal opinion of the Chamber of Deputies president, Francisco Jose de Vargas. As soon as the interior minister told me of the situation, I gave the order immediately. I am certain that the police were there. Jose de Vargas himself told me that yes, the police were there, but that they were not acting. What did he want, that the police should start beating demonstrators, so as to be able to accuse me later that human rights had not been respected? It depends on how you look at things. We must be just, equitable, and handle this situation calmly, for the good of all.

[Reporter] One more question please, Mr. President. Dr. Hermes Rafael Saguier has made a rather serious accusation that this is the beginning of a plan to stage a coup against Congress, that Gen. Lino Cesar Oviedo and Blas N. Riquelme are the main leaders, and that you have no decisionmaking power in this affair.

[Wasmosy] I can say that he has a fantastic imagination and I cannot curtail the freedom of those people. We are living within an environment of democracy and I must respect all opinions even though I do not agree with them. I think those imaginations are flying much higher than reality. Thank you all.

Colorado Party Officials Lead Demonstration

PY0710210593 Asuncion ULTIMA HORA in Spanish 7 Oct 93 p 2

[Text] The leaders of the demonstration that took place in front of Congress this morning are all Colorado Party leaders from San Pedro Department. Among them is Filino Monges, president of the Santani Colorado Party Precinct and president of the council of Colorado Party precincts in San Pedro Department; Emilio Garcia, a member of the Chore Municipal Council; and Salomon Rios, president of the Chore Colorado Party Precinct. Other demonstration leaders were Abilio Recalde, a member of the San Pedro Colorado Party Precinct; Alfredo Garcia, vice president of the Lima Colorado Party Precinct; and Angel Alvarez, a member of the San Pedro Colorado Party Precinct.

On instructions from the Supreme Court chairman, criminal prosecutor Jose Emilio Yaluk went to Congress, where he took down the charges of aggression congressmen made. The immediate arrest of those responsible for the outrageous behavior in Congress will be requested. Opposition leaders reported that yesterday

afternoon Colorado Party leaders and high-ranking military officers were traveling around San Pedro Department by plane organizing today's demonstration.

Governability Pact Signing Halted

PY0710203393 Asuncion RPC Television Network in Spanish 1500 GMT 7 Oct 93

[Text] The signing of the governability pact, which was to have taken place this morning, did not happen. Representatives of the main political parties, who met at the Christian Democratic Party [PDC] headquarters, agreed that the conditions were not appropriate for the signing of the pact. All politicians, who were present at the meeting, agreed to say that no pact could be signed in view of the events that took place this morning in front of the national Congress.

[Begin recording] [PDC Chairman Miguel A. Montaner] Considering the events that took place this morning in front of the national Congress, the different delegations felt that it was not prudent to sign this pact, as these events show the unpostponable need to sign a democratic governability pact, but they also show that this good idea of the pact can be discredited by all those who are opposed to the signing of a consensus concerning the national political objectives.

[Vice President Angel Roberto Seifart] We consider perfectly correct the reasons given by representatives of the Authentic Radical Liberal Party [PLRA], PDC, and Febrerista Revolutionary Party for suspending the signing of this democratic governability pact, for as long as the climate created by the regrettable situation this morning prevails.

[PLRA President Juan Manuel Benitez Florentin] I want to state that I fully agree with the idea that it is prudent to suspend the signing of this pact, given the different interpretations that can be given to a situation of this nature. I agree with the suspension of this document, which is not the agreement itself but the ratification of a political willingness to seek points of understanding between the opposition and the government in order to strengthen our democratic institutions.

[PLRA leader Domingo Laino] We cannot generalize this at all. It is true that it is a pity. It is a shame to think of the events that took place this morning. What we want is to strengthen the democratic institutions. Congress is a very important state institution, and this morning it was offended, insulted. And besides, we saw negligence on the part of those in charge of security, because the police headquarters is located only 50 meters away from the national Congress. There was negligence. I would not say complicity, but this needs full analysis. But anyway, I am optimistic, because this also shows that we Paraguayans, and the political agents responsible both for the government and the opposition, must keep talking.[end recording]

Commission Issues Communiqué

PY0710224893 Asuncion Cerro Cora Sistema Nacional de Television Network in Spanish 1820 GMT 7 Oct 93

[News conference held by Interparty Dialogue Commission members at Government House including President Juan Carlos Wasmosy; Vice President Angel R. Seifart; Colorado Party President Blas N. Riquelme; Senator Juan Carlos Galaverna; Juan Manuel Benitez Florentin, president of the Authentic Radical Liberal Party, PLRA; PLRA leader Domingo Laino; and Christian Democratic Party President Miguel Angel Montaner; among others—live]

[Text] [Unidentified reporter] The area is small and it is difficult to find a better place for this news conference.

[Unidentified announcer] Mr. President, can you tell us the results of your meeting with this large delegation?

[Wasmosy] Of course. Good afternoon, I think you have already had lunch. I have received the pleasant visit of all Interparty Dialogue Commission members at the Government House. The interparty dialogue has not been interrupted; the dialogue will continue but the signing of the agreement has been postponed as a result of the incidents in front of the Congress building this morning.

I informed the commission members of the measures the executive branch has implemented to investigate the incident. The Interior Ministry will open an inquiry in order to gather all the information available on the incident. Here with you are all the political leaders who were kind enough to meet with me. I have participated in a meeting with the vice president and the presidents of all political parties. We have decided to issue a communiqué. The commission had been meeting at the Christian Democratic Party [PDC] headquarters and members decided that the PDC president should read the communiqué. I thank them for coming here and I stand by them as a show of support in this attempt at strengthening this democratic process.

[Montaner] As you all know, the multiparty commission members were meeting at PDC headquarters to sign the basic document that would have served as a guideline for our discussions in search of an agreement for democratic governability.

In view of today's incidents, we decided to come to the Government House to hear President Wasmosy himself tell us what measures he was taking regarding this situation. President Wasmosy offered us a working area where we drafted the following communiqué:

The Interparty Dialogue Commission, in view of today's incidents in front of the Congress building provoked by a group of citizens, who overstepped their right to demonstrate, who prevented the entry of legislators and employees to the Congress building, and who committing excesses against legislators, hereby states:

1. That it ratifies a citizen's right to demonstrate and expresses satisfaction with the executive branch's decision to investigate the incident and elaborate the corresponding summary proceedings.
2. That it extends its solidarity to congressional authorities and members, respect for whom is essential to democracy.
3. That it deplores this or any other regrettable incident seeking to damage, hinder, or dismiss the legislative branch's dignity.
4. That it has decided to postpone, without interrupting the dialogue, the signing of the document [10-second break in transmission] party instructions scheduled for today in view of the situation.
5. That it warns the population about the repetition of demonstrations that surpass the appropriate limits because only through civic maturity and the firm defense of democratic institutions and the powers emanating from them we will be able to consolidate and strengthen these institutions, for which dialogue, consensus, and the patriotism of the country's political and social organizations and the Paraguayan people are essential.

Asuncion, 7 October 1993.

The document is signed by Blas N. Riquelme, Angel R. Seifart, and Carlos Podesta for the Colorado Party; Juan Manuel Benitez Florentin, Juan Manuel Marcos and Domingo Laino for the Authentic Radical Liberal Party; Enrique Sanchez for the Febrerista Revolutionary Party; and Miguel Angel Montaner for the Christian Democratic Party.

Thank you.

[Reporter] This has been the reading of the joint communique. Participating in the act are President Juan Carlos Wasmosy, Domingo Laino, and Vice President Angel Roberto Seifart, as well as Central Department Governor Luis Alberto Wagner.

PLRA Deputy Accuses Gen. Oviedo of Planning Coup

PY0710215193 Asuncion ULTIMA HORA in Spanish
7 Oct 93 p 4

[Text] "This is the first step toward the coup planned by General Lino Cesar Oviedo. We have spoken with many people about this and we know what is going on. We have reports from intelligence services, which for the time being we cannot prove. By the attitude of Asuncion's police chief, Inspector General Franco Vargas, it is evident an illegal action is taking place here in front of the police and they do not react.

This is a joke," PLRA [Authentic Radical Liberal Party] Deputy Hermes Rafael Saguier said about the demonstration staged by Colorado peasants against the attempt to prohibit soldiers on active duty from joining a political party. Some congressmen and journalists were attacked during the demonstration in front of the

national Congress. Saguier added the coup, planned by Gen. Oviedo, aims at maintaining the system of privileges for a group of businessmen and some military officers. He added that the governability pact is part of a scheme to make a coup possible. "I am sure of that. I do not know if the opposition is to blame, but I am sure about those who are insisting on the pact on behalf of the government," he said.

According to Saguier, this is the first aggression against Congress and the coupists' objective is to continue creating conditions of confrontation in the face of a weak and indecisive Congress. Lino Oviedo and the generals who are with him want to dissolve Congress in a short time, he said.

The controversial PLRA deputy said he doubts President Juan Carlos Wasmosy is aware of the charges he [Saguier] is making. He said Wasmosy does not have total control of power. "I do not know whether Wasmosy counts any more or not at this point in events. The main power holders are Lino Oviedo and his friends from the officialist line. Even Colorado Party President Blas N. Riquelme has more power than Wasmosy," Saguier said.

The PLRA deputy charged the Colorado and military leadership, headed by Oviedo, with staging a demonstration in front of Congress to prepare an alleged power vacuum to justify a coup against the people's representatives. Saguier expressed his disagreement with the meeting scheduled for this afternoon between President Wasmosy and some congressmen to discuss [sentence not concluded as published]

'Threatening Overtones' in Colorado Party Communique

PY0710213093 Asuncion ULTIMA HORA in Spanish
7 Oct 93 p 4

[Text] There are threatening overtones in the communique issued this morning by Colorado Party members from San Pedro Department. At one point they stress: "We, the Colorado Party people, raise our voice with fervor and express with all the strength our democratic conviction can command that we will not allow an affront and a treacherous attack on the National Constitution. We will use our clout as the overwhelming majority in the country to demand a plebiscite, the dissolution of Congress, and the holding of new parliamentary elections because we want true servants of the people in Congress who fulfill their duty of ensuring the observance of the National Constitution."

The demonstrators issued two communiques, one by the National Unity Movement of the Veterans and Descendants of the Chaco War and the other, which bore no signature, was distributed by Colorado Party leaders from San Pedro Department. In their "Colorado Party People's Manifesto to the Republic and the World," the latter condemn "the tremendous injustice being committed through the passing of a law that will oblige our fellow party members in the Army and the police to give up their National Republican Association [Colorado

Party] membership." The communique warns congressmen, especially those of the opposition, not "to violate the Constitution." It stresses: "We will not tolerate the opposition's intention of telling us, Colorado Party members, what to do in our party."

Congressmen from different parties will investigate the incident that took place in front of the Congress building this morning to find out, above all, who masterminded this attack.

Uruguay

Foreign Minister Recounts Foreign Leaders Meetings

PY0710225793 Montevideo LA MANANA in Spanish
1 Oct 93 p 7

[Text] Uruguayan Foreign Minister Sergio Abreu made fruitful contacts with government officials from other countries during meetings at the 48th UN General Assembly. At the request of the media, the Uruguayan foreign minister referred to those negotiations.

In relation to the meeting with the Iranian foreign minister, Abreu said: "It was a cordial meeting during which we reviewed political and commercial issues, especially bilateral in nature. We stressed the importance of the Iranian market for Uruguayan exports and especially the need to solve some commercial difficulties that affect the payment of some exports because of past bank obstacles. The Iranian foreign minister maintained a positive point of view, seeking a solution for the future. We also discussed subjects related to Mercosur [Common Market of the South] and to opportunities in regional and subregional areas. We decided to remain in continuous contact. Some members of the Iranian delegation visited Uruguay not long ago."

Concerning the meeting held with the foreign ministers of Paraguay and Bolivia, Abreu said: "We held a very fruitful meeting related to the joint work of three countries in the Southern Cone, especially in the River Plate Basin. A statement has thus been approved referring to the decision to reactivate Urupabol, comprising Uruguay, Paraguay, and Bolivia, seeking cooperation and political coordination without implying the creation of a bureaucratic structure. Second, the decision was made to hold a meeting of foreign ministers at the next summit of the Rio Group in Santiago, Chile, where instruments linked to this decision will be formally signed. Some ideas were exchanged concerning integration, subregional agreements, and the concern conveyed by Bolivia over a more intense relationship with Mercosur. The possible future inclusion of Bolivia within Mercosur, according to the legal mechanisms that must be outlined and in compliance with the provisions of the Asuncion Treaty, was also discussed."

He called the meeting with Shimon Peres "very interesting. He is a world figure, a man with great charisma who is very firm in his remarks, and above all, he is characterized today by the political decisions of the

peace agreements signed between Israel and the PLO." "We conveyed our congratulations over the peace agreement and reiterated the Uruguayan Government's support to the State of Israel and to its security, thus ratifying once again the traditional solidarity existing between the government and people of Uruguay and the government and people of Israel.

"Minister Peres recalled his visit to Uruguay, the warmth with which he was received. He referred to the integration process with concern and optimism, saying he views the development of this integration process with very good prospects for our countries. Bilateral commercial aspects were also considered, especially meat exports to Israel, and some modifications of institutional order in the export channels."

With regard to the talks he held with EEC representatives, the foreign minister noted that "the agenda for the meeting with the EC was very tight. We had a long and interesting meeting with all EC foreign ministers, with whom we discussed an agenda that included issues like human rights, the Uruguay Round of GATT, trafficking, cooperation; that is subjects of common interest that must be studied in depth. But fundamentally, concerning the Uruguay Round, as we represented the Rio Group, we raised the concern of the group about the conclusion of the Uruguay Round. We clearly told EC foreign ministers that the Rio Group would not support just any amendment to the 'Blair House Agreement' [given in English] and that it considers the successful conclusion of the Uruguay Round a priority. We made it clear that the Rio Group was not going to accept the result of bilateral negotiations at any price. We also stressed the need for negotiations to be rendered multilateral so that Rio Group member countries could have time to assess bilateral negotiations and, above all, to make observations and contributions on the final stage of the Uruguay Round. We will thus ensure that multilateralism, balance, and globalization, which should be a distinctive trait of the Uruguay Round of GATT's talks, are respected."

Army Commander: Troop Numbers at 'Minimum Limit'

PY0710131693 Montevideo Radio El Espectador
Network in Spanish 0930 GMT 7 Oct 93

[Text] Army Commander Lieutenant General Daniel Garcia has stated that the Army has reached the minimum limit in the number of its troops and that a greater reduction could make the land forces useless. In this regard, Garcia revealed the Army had 23,500 men in 1985, while it currently has only 16,100.

In an interview granted to EL OBSERVADOR, Garcia said that he has no doubt the Army would fulfill its duty of maintaining internal order if the executive branch so requested. He said that if the Army failed to fulfill this duty, it would be staging a technical coup.